

Rhythm Africa Ijude Palace restoration and community project



Cultural Preservation & Tourism Development

Ijede Community – Ikorodu Division, Lagos

Within the riverine community of **Ijede** in the Ikorodu Division of Lagos lies an untapped cultural and tourism treasure with extraordinary historical value. As part of our commitment to cultural preservation and sustainable tourism, the **Rhythm Africa Festival** is launching a long-term initiative to document, restore, and elevate this hidden heritage site into a recognized destination.

Ijede is home to an ancient palace ruin believed to be more than **300 years old**—a powerful symbol of indigenous leadership, identity, and traditional governance. Despite its historical importance, this heritage landmark remains largely undocumented, under-promoted, and at risk of being forgotten.

Our mission is to change that.

Our Vision

Ijede Ancient Palace Restoration Vision



Before Restoration – Current State

After Restoration – Future Heritage Destination

We aim to transform Ijede’s historic palace site into a living cultural destination that preserves history while creating meaningful economic opportunity for the community.

Our vision includes:

- Documenting and preserving the ancient palace ruins
- Developing the site into a recognized cultural tourism destination
- Promoting responsible and sustainable tourism within the riverine ecosystem
- Empowering local residents through tourism-driven economic opportunities

By elevating Ijede’s heritage, we will create lasting economic value while safeguarding cultural identity for future generations.

Expanded Impact Actions

To bring this vision to life, the Rhythm Africa Festival will implement the following structured initiatives:

Heritage Preservation

- Official documentation and historical recording of the 300-year-old palace ruins
- Branding and cultural recognition of the site
- Long-term restoration planning and phased redevelopment

Community Development

- Training programs for community-led cultural tour guides
- Creation of structured tour routes, including:
 - Historical heritage tours
 - Riverine lifestyle experiences
 - Cultural storytelling and traditions

Tourism Infrastructure

- Construction of a simple visitor reception hut
- Installation of signage and educational markers
- Development of a local craft and food marketplace to support community entrepreneurs

Environmental Sustainability

- Environmental sanitation initiatives
- Mangrove protection and riverine ecosystem preservation programs



A Festival With Purpose

The **Rhythm Africa Festival** is more than a celebration of music, art, and culture —it is a platform for transformation, education, and meaningful connection between Africans and the global diaspora.

Through initiatives like the Ijede Cultural Preservation Project, we are connecting the past to the future—ensuring that history is protected, communities are empowered, and impact continues long after the festival ends.

Our goal is to use this festival as a catalyst to link **history, education, and tourism** in ways that drive sustainable transformation across Lagos and beyond.

This initiative will be led by **James Akeem Anago-Osho**, who will oversee community engagement, heritage development, and implementation.



Festival Legacy Project

Building Impact That Lasts

Rather than creating one-time interventions, the Rhythm Africa Festival is establishing a **Legacy Project Model** that delivers measurable, long-term results.

Each edition of the festival will:

- Adopt a new community each year
- Track measurable development outcomes such as:
 - Tourism growth
 - Cultural heritage conservation
 - Youth training programs
 - Educational support
 - Infrastructure development

This ensures that every festival leaves behind something permanent and valuable.

The Ijede Palace Restoration Initiative



Rebuilding History — Brick by Brick

A key component of this initiative is the restoration of the ancient Ijede Palace ruins.

We will invite members of the African diaspora and local supporters to actively participate in rebuilding this historic landmark through sponsorship and cultural investment.

Rather than attempting rapid reconstruction, our approach is deliberate and long-term—focused on sustainable progress that delivers visible results year after year.

Donor Recognition & Participation

Supporters will be recognized through a structured heritage sponsorship model, including:

- **Blue Plaque Recognition** honoring major contributors
- Named sections of the palace for significant donors
- Individual recognition for every donated brick
- Permanent acknowledgment of all contributors

This creates a powerful sense of ownership and connection to African heritage.



Exclusive Donor Engagement



Major contributors will be invited to:

- Special private meetings and dinners with the King

- Cultural tours of the palace site and surrounding communities
- Heritage briefings showcasing project progress
- First-hand engagement with the communities benefiting from their support

These experiences allow donors to see the direct impact of their contributions and strengthen cultural ties.

Funding Commitment

The Rhythm Africa Festival will also dedicate a portion of festival-generated funds annually to support the restoration and development of the Ijede Palace and surrounding community.

This demonstrates our long-term commitment to the success of the project.

What We Are Building

This initiative is bigger than a festival.

It is a movement designed to strengthen identity, rebuild heritage, and unlock opportunity.

We are building:

- **Cultural Preservation** — Protecting indigenous heritage and historical identity
- **Educational Revival** — Creating learning opportunities through cultural awareness
- **Economic Empowerment** — Generating jobs and local enterprise through tourism
- **Pan-African Storytelling** — Reconnecting the diaspora with African history



The Bigger Picture

The Rhythm Africa Festival Legacy Initiative represents a bold vision—one that transforms celebration into lasting change.

By restoring the ancient palace of Ijede and developing it into a thriving cultural tourism destination, we are preserving history while creating new pathways for growth, pride, and prosperity.

**Brick by brick, story by story, community by community—
we are rebuilding history and shaping the future.**

This restoration and development initiative led by **James Akeem Anago** will be implemented in **phases over several years**, ensuring sustainable growth and measurable progress.



EDEN OCEANS

A vibrant promotional graphic for the 'feel' festival. In the center is a 3D-rendered illustration of a smiling Black woman with a large, voluminous afro hairstyle. She is wearing a green tank top and large gold hoop earrings. To her left is a circular logo with a yellow and red background, featuring a stylized bird or flame icon and the text 'feel FESTIVAL'. The words 'EXPRESSION', 'EQUALITY', and 'FREEDOM' are written around the circle. To her right is a large, colorful, 3D-style logo that says 'FEELIN ON THE 5TH'. At the bottom, the text 'I'M FEELN IT!' is written in a bold, orange, blocky font, with the tagline 'Are you feelin it?' in a smaller, white, cursive font below it. The entire graphic is surrounded by colorful circles and streamers.

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