Finslide

FINANCIAL WELLNESS CONSULTING AND TECHNOLOGY

A FINSLIDE STORY — LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT

The One Budget Line That Changed My Marriage — And Could Change Yours

By Kevin "FinslideKevin" Jean-Charles, Executive Chairman & Founder

People often ask me why I'm so passionate about Finslide. The honest answer is that I've seen its impact firsthand — it helped extend my marriage by four more years, giving us nine years of genuine, quality lessons together. And when we eventually divorced, it was mutual and respectful, a case of agreeing to disagree.

One of the biggest reasons why: Finslide helped my then-wife and me make better decisions together and stay on the same page — even when money was tight.

I remember it clearly. We were living in Manhattan, moving between lean months and periods of real financial growth. Every time I wanted to grab a cigar with friends or unwind at a bar, it turned into a debate. There was no line item in our budget for going out — and if there was going to be one, it needed to work for both of us.

So we created one. We called it "Local Entertainment," split into two sub-categories: his and hers. Each of us received an agreed percentage of our household income to spend however we liked — no guilt, no arguments.

“It gave us a framework for moderation, instead of restriction.”

It changed everything. My wife could go out and enjoy herself, and so could I, as long as we stayed within our percentages. For the first time, spending on ourselves felt less like a fight and more like a plan we’d both agreed to.

It also created positive incentives. When our income grew, our Local Entertainment budgets grew with it. When it shrank — like the month we had a vacant rental unit — we scaled back together, or chose to skip an outing to prioritize something that mattered more. Because what’s the point of working hard if you can’t enjoy the journey along the way, in a way that’s safe, intentional, and budgeted?

That’s why I love the week-to-week rhythm this created. It made Local Entertainment sexy again.

We started looking forward to sitting down together on Fridays to forecast on our Finslide sheet — less back-and-forth, more appreciation for each other’s efforts. It gave us more ways to enjoy the city, together or apart.

If you’re single, I’d still encourage you to add a Local Entertainment line to your budget. It’s permission to get out of the house and enjoy your life, guilt-free.

Guilt-free joy shouldn’t be reserved for one week a year.

Think of it as a middle ground. Instead of the extreme of saving 15–40% of your monthly income for one big vacation a year, Local Entertainment lets you support your local community, stay present, and enjoy the journey — wherever you are in life, all year long.

Cheers to you and yours.
Kevin “FinslideKevin” Jean-Charles

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