**FUNDRAISING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**MATT BROWAR**

Hello and welcome. I’m Matt Browar and I’m the chair of Murals of La Jolla. I’d like to take this opportunity to thank our very gracious hostess, Stacy Jacobs for generously sharing her beautiful home and “legendary” hospitality so that all of us would have the chance to get together to support our very worthy cause. I know that being in this atmosphere, with all of you, and with Stacy’s outstanding art collection, inspires and motivates all of us to continue to feed creative energy into a project that makes La Jolla even more beautiful and engaging than it already is. Stacy has been a good friend and long time supporter of Murals of La Jolla, and for that I am truly grateful. I am also energized as I look around and see so many of you here tonight, eager to explore the ways in which we can insure continued support and freshness for our beautiful city for years to come.

“Speak softly and carry a big can of paint.” Those words were said by Banksy.... at least we **THINK** he said them... who knows? No one has seen him recently.... (**Wait for the laugh**). Welll..... if anyone **DOES** see him.... tell him he’s welcome in La Jolla!!! And we’ll have lots of paint... or whatever it takes to present the new murals we plan each year. To date, we’ve installed over **thirty** murals and have provided tours for more than **five thousand** visitors.... but the beauty of our project is that these spectacular works of art are there.... in plain sight.... adorning the walls of our buildings, enhancing our streetscape, and initiating colorful conversation for all that view them. While the roots of street art and outdoor murals fall somewhere in the urban graffiti movement of the late sixties, the murals in our program, created by world class artists, provoke a new and exciting dialogue between the viewer and the art. When I hear the expression, “Art is everywhere,” I realize how proud I am of our project and all of the joy and appreciation it sparks.

2020 marks the **TENTH** anniversary of Murals of La Jolla... that’s ten years of community engagement, ten years of participating in, and supporting, the fascinating contemporary art scene, and ten years of building a foundation for an appreciation of art for **EVERYONE**. We have big plans to celebrate this upcoming milestone... more intriguing, engaging, provocative walls, a Murals coffee table book, and many other very special events.

Mr. Brainwash, as we know, believes that “Life is beautiful.” (**If you want to make a joke you can say**)..... I mean... he’s sprayed **THAT** on more walls than I can count... (**and wait for the laugh**). Thanks to the enthusiasm and generosity of all of you, we can insure that the walls of La Jolla will grow increasingly more beautiful. Mr. Brainwash also did a piece in which he depicted a young child painting on a wall. The message declared, “You’re never too young to dream big.” It is my intention that with all of your support, we will continue to dream bigger and bigger as we build on our history and enhance our outreach.

I think that some of you might have heard the quote, “The **EARTH** without **ART** is just **EH**.” (**Wait for the laugh**). I am happy and proud to be a part of a movement that makes sure that never happens. Henry Moore said, “To be an artist is to believe in life.” With our murals, we affirm and confirm the richness of art appreciation for **everyone**.

Again, I would like to extend very special thanks to Stacy for hosting this mural event tonight and to all of you here, filled with enthusiasm and magnanimity, let’s have a **GREAT**, **COLORFUL** year!!

And now Lynda will say a few words...

Thank you all!!