**FUNDRAISING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**MATT BROWAR**

Good evening everyone!! It’s great to see so many of you here and, as always, I hope you’re all doing well.  Tonight is a very special night as we celebrate our **tenth** anniversary of the mural project.... but before I speak about that... my **SECOND** favorite subject, I would like to thank a couple that ranks high on my **FIRST** favorite subject... and that would be honoring and acknowledging the people who make this great, colorful project possible... the generous, tireless supporters of Murals of La Jolla. Tonight, I’d like to express particular gratitude to Lise and Steve, our hosts for this evening.  I want to thank you both for opening up your beautiful home and hosting the **1Mural** Maker party (**was this a typo? I took it from your email**).  Your continued support over the last ten years has been nothing less then extraordinary and has played a significant part in the success of the mural project.  I can’t think of a better spot to host our party and celebrate an entire decade together, united in a cause that’s a win/win all around.  Thank you both again for all you have done.

As I said, this is a very special night as we celebrate our tenth anniversary for the Mural Project.  That’s ten years of public art that has been, and will continue to be, enjoyed twenty-four hours a day, three hundred sixty-five days a year.  Even **MORE** important is the amazing, enthusiastic support from the people in this room.  If your first donation was ten years ago, I think we all would like to acknowledge you right now.... could you please raise your hands??? Congratulations!!! And thanks for your continued vision, generosity, and community spirit!!!

Ten years... to some, it seems like a lifetime... ten years... of accomplishment, consistency of purpose.... ten years of making a beautiful city even **MORE** beautiful... Ten years was a good starting point... and it’s great that our work has been beautifully preserved in the coffee table book that tells our story in compelling images... Since Lynda is the key person who wrote the text, worked on the edit, and ultimately published this wonderful chronicle, I will leave it to her to say a few words and bring the book to life... from **HER** point of view.... and good news!!! (**Do you want to make a joke, you can point and say....**) You’ll **ALL** be getting a copy... **YES**!!! My “**OPRAH MOMENT**” has arrived... **YOU GET A BOOK!!! and YOU get a BOOK!!... (Wait for the laugh)**.... take them home... to admire... to reminisce... to think of how these special works influenced and inspired you.... May this be the first of many... as our collection grows!! ....

The artist, Camille Pissarro, once said, “Blessed are they who see beautiful things in humble places where other people see nothing.” Each and every one of you in this room has maintained the vision and supported the purpose we first imagined ten years ago. Whether you’re a patron, an artist, a loyal member of this community... a friend... a neighbor... an appreciator of beauty...humanity... the creative spirit... someone who revels in the joy of sparking conversation, I want to thank you. On most days, we are blessed to wake up and walk in this incredibly beautiful environment. It’s no small feat to look around, acknowledge all that we have, and do what we can to enhance that beauty... with art... As Olafur Eliasson has stated, “Art helps us identify with one another and expands our notion of ***we*** - from the local to the global.” Murals of La Jolla has become a community of its own within this city... we are ***all*** connected through the work... thanks to the passion each one of us brings to this project.... and while so many of you were good, dear, supportive, long time friends, I feel this has brought us even closer.... art has a way of doing that... strengthening bonds, encouraging conversations, urging us all to look more deeply... at the work... ourselves... and the scene around us. For that, I will always be very grateful. I am also eternally grateful to the process of creativity... to the seemingly endless well of color, form, dimension, and composition that converge to feed our souls... on the walls of La Jolla. I’m proud to be a part of this conversation and I’m **REALLY** proud to be able to share it all with Lynda Forsha, our Executive Director.... so Lynda, I know that we would all love to hear a few words from you.... thank you all for ten great years!!