

Hi, we're Mortar.

And we love marketing destinations and experiences.

We're the team who turns the stiles at San Francisco's legendary Exploratorium. The team who gets thousands of people every year to not only enter a dungeon willingly, but shell out \$14.99 for the privilege.

We're also the people who turned consumer opinions like "Diesel fumes and meth" around and helped drive a 6% boost in tourism for Reno/Tahoe - the first uptick they'd seen in 33 years.

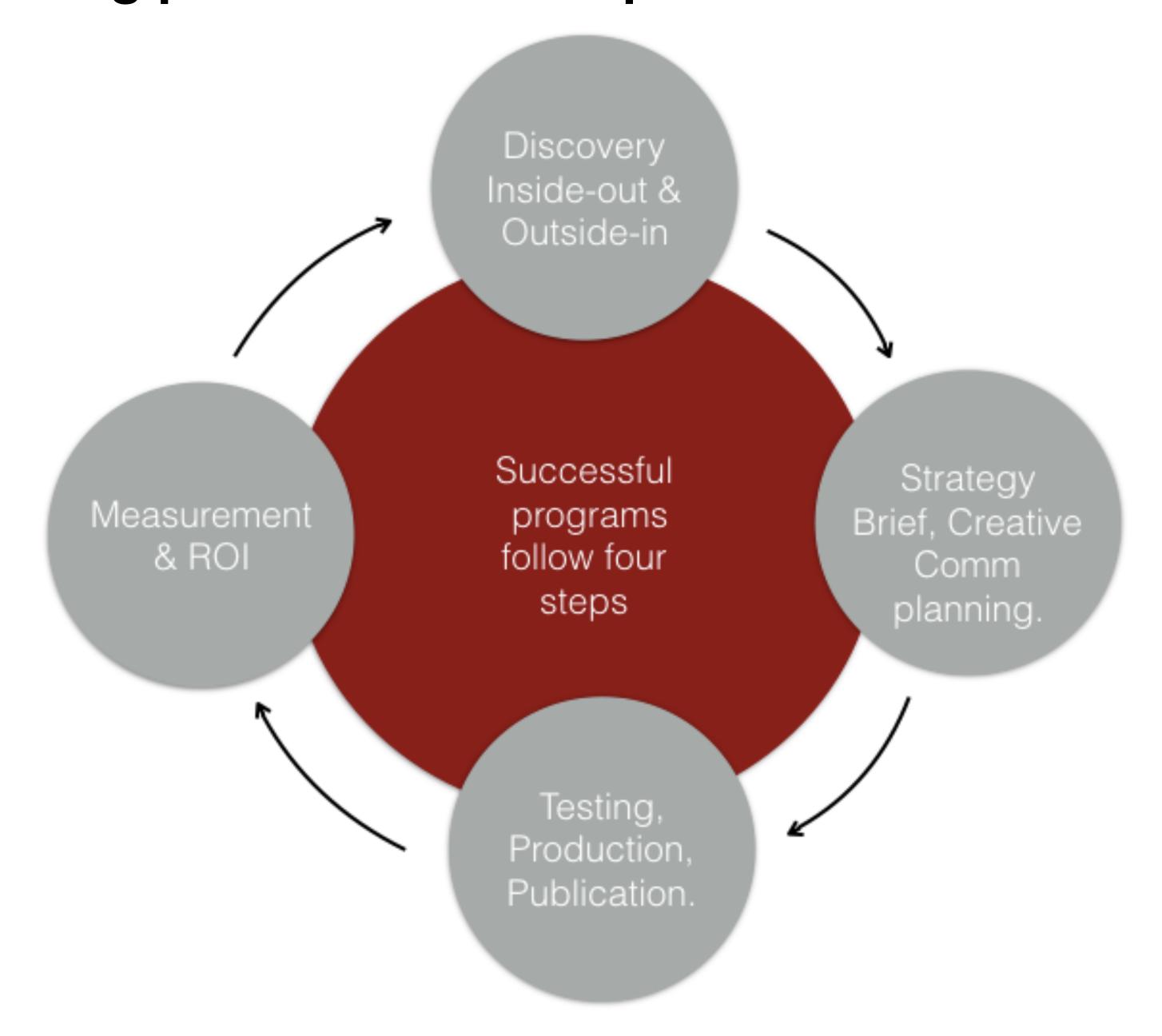
We love upticks. And we love Mendocino. You see where we're going with this.

Nearly all of the services we detail in this proposal will be provided by Mortar's in-house team. We do, however, regularly outsource quantitative research, as well as video and web production.

If you'd like to know more, contact our Managing Partner, Mark Williams (<u>mark@mortaragency.com</u>). He will be your main point of contact, and is very good about picking up the tab for lunch.



### Our branding process has been proven over the last 14 years





### All of these brands solved their challenges following the same four steps.

































Here's how we'd apply this process to you...



We'll talk to your decision-makers. See what they think.



We'll talk to your audience. See what they think.



Together, we'll discover the truth. It's our job to tell it well.



For example: Our target probably lives and works in the Bay Area. And probably yearns to escape their hectic, wired worlds.



You know what's perfect for that? Mendocino.



# CAMPAIGN CASE STUDIES

# RENO TAHOE USA

How we united the Reno Tahoe community behind their new campaign.

# RENO TAHOE USA

Originally, just Reno. Trouble finding the right audience.

Challenge: Marketed themselves as Vegas-Jr, or "Sonoma of the North."

Solution: Find the right audience; target with authenticity.



The logo we designed for Reno Tahoe has become something of an icon.



For the last 14 years we have condensed the key details for any project into a single-page brief, a strategic decision and a single a-ha moment.

We will do the same for you.



#### **Target Audience:**

"Real" Hunters are seeking an escape from the expected. A break from chain store-lined streets and pre-packaged vacations. They believe that fun shouldn't require a dress code or a rule book. That tour guides are overrated. And that being called a "tourist" is little better than an insult.

They are explorers and discoverers on the hunt for character, flair, and the unique. They have flexible expectations and a wide comfort zone—because you never know what treasure you'll come across next. Whether it's a dive or high-end luxury, they're always game.

They are constantly curious. They troll the web for ideas, seek out recommendations, and mingle with locals and other visitors alike. Experiences are meant to be shared, so proudly they tell the stories of their discoveries and bring people back to share their finds.





#### **Key Insights:**

That Reno-Tahoe is one of the last, great, truly authentic places in the country. You don't just visit it, you experience it. From the stunningly new to the quirkily old, Reno-Tahoe is a true original. It makes visitors feel like locals with a genuine lack of pretension. It is accessible to all and easy on the pocketbook. It promises nothing but a good time and demands nothing from you in return.





### **Strategic Marketing Decision**

Let's market Reno as part of the Tahoe area.



#### A-ha moment

"Reno" is where you get a quickie divorce. "Reno Tahoe" is where you ski all day, get weird all night.





WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN A LITTLE DIFFERENT. A LITTLE WILDER. A LITTLE WOOLLIER.

AND ABOUT AS FAR AS YOU CAN GET FROM EXPECTED.

SEE, IT'S OUR BELIEF THAT SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THE ENDLESS STRIP MALLS

AND THE SOY-HALF-CAF-NO-WHIP LATTES,

THE WORLD HAS LOST ITS WAY.

AND IT'S ABOUT TIME SOMEONE PUT THINGS RIGHT.

IT'S TIME SOMEONE STOOD UP FOR ALL THAT'S UNIQUE, AND OFFBEAT, AND TRUE.

FOR THE LAST FEW THINGS THE SUITS HAVEN'T COMMERCIALIZED, HOMOGENIZED, OR

# sucked all the fun out of.

本本本本本本本本本本本本本本 THIS IS RENO TAHOE, U.S.A. 本本本本本本本本本本本本本

THE HOME OF BOARDERS AND BURNERS, BALLOON RACERS, AND BURGERS AS BIG AS YOUR HEAD. A PLACE WHERE PARTIES DON'T REQUIRE PLANNERS. WHERE REAL FRIENDS TRUMP FACEBOOK FRIENDS. AND THE LINE BETWEEN "GET THE CAMERA," AND "GET THE STRAITJACKET," WILL ALWAYS BE A LITTLE BLURRY.

AS LONG AS PEOPLE YEARN FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT, WE'LL BE HERE. CHASING THE ELUSIVE 7-10 SPLIT. WHISPERING ENCOURAGEMENT TO OUR RACING CAMELS. AND SERVING AS A CONSTANT REMINDER THAT LIFE IS SHORT, LAUGHTER IS CONTAGIOUS AND FUN ALWAYS FINDS A WAY. MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, IT FINDS ITS WAY HERE.



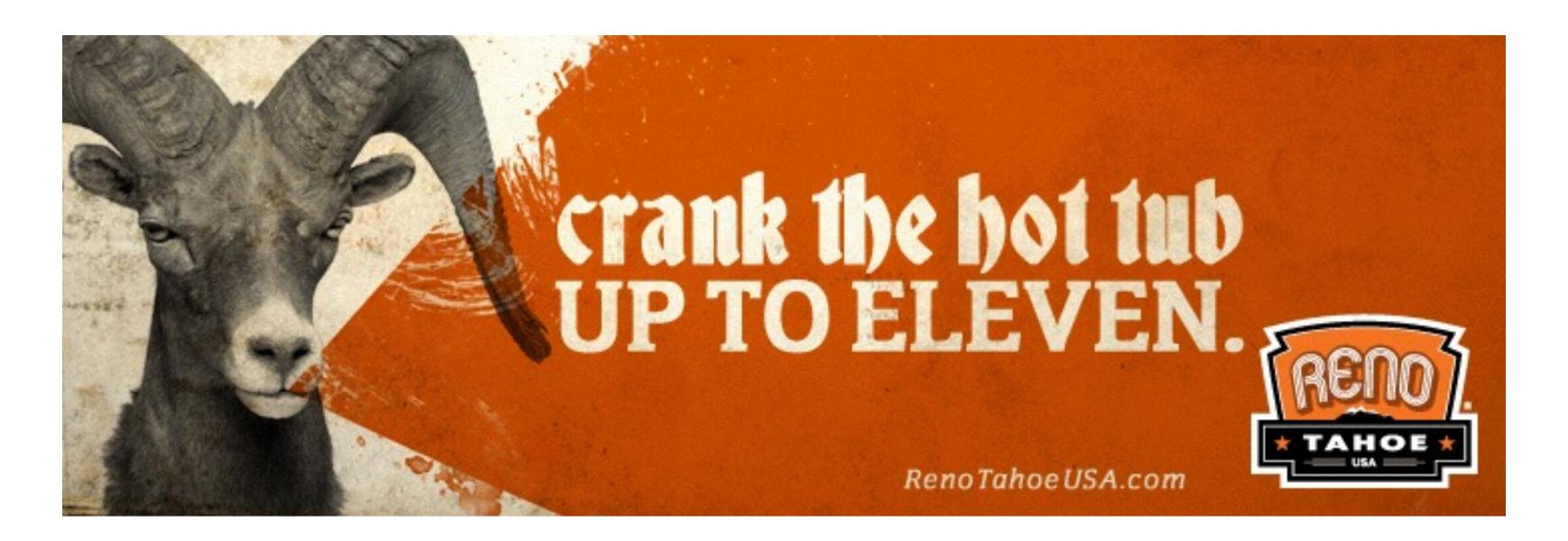












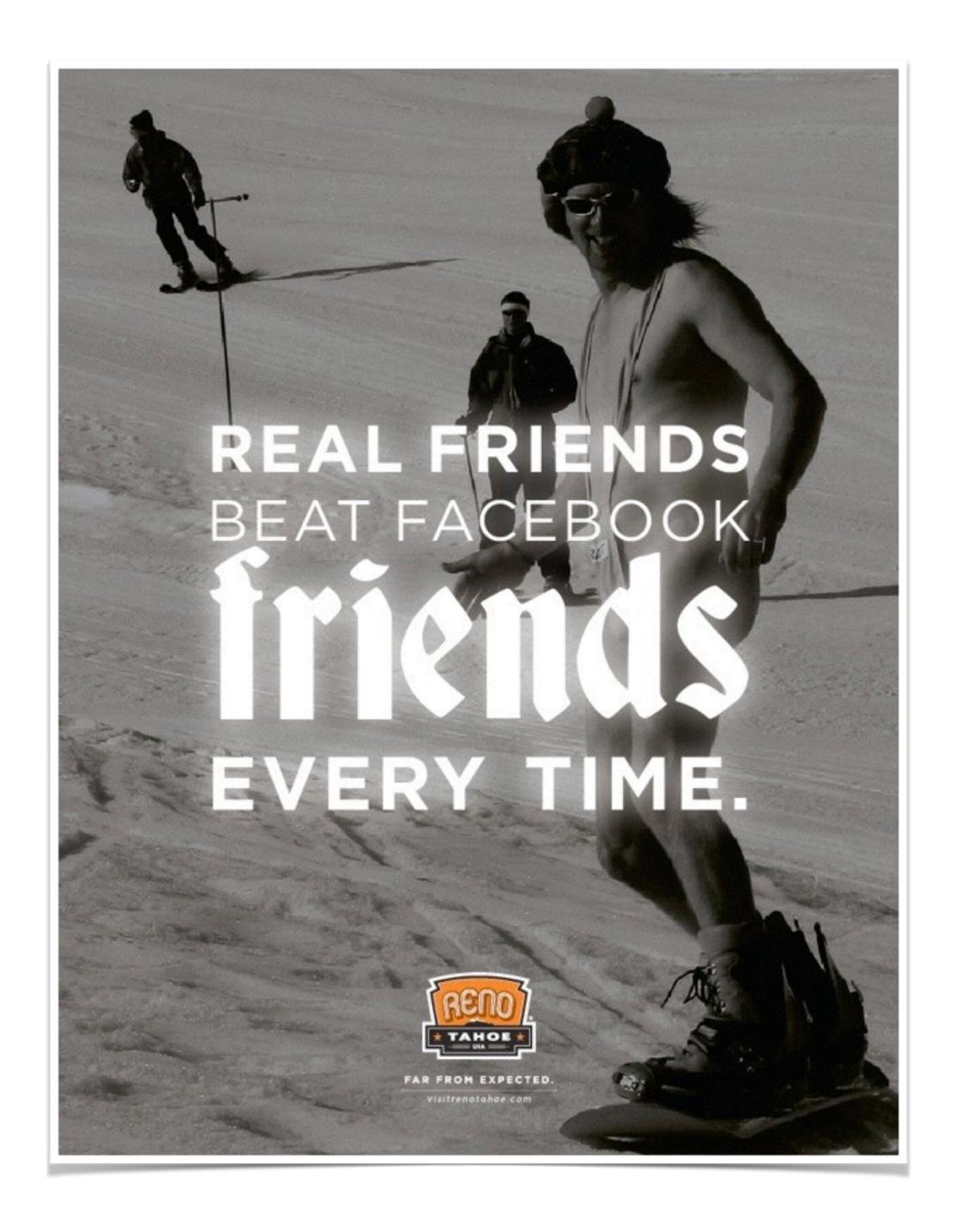










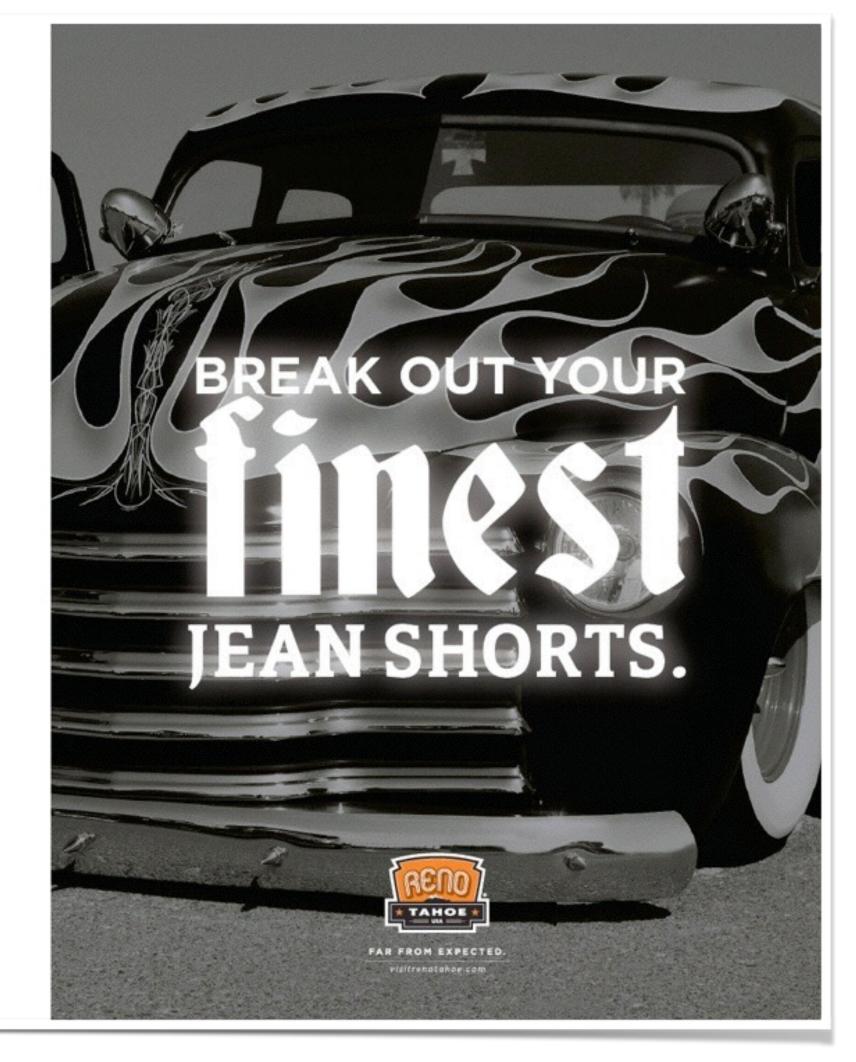














## Reno Tahoe: Results

Consideration to visit up 7%

Hotel tax revenue up 14%

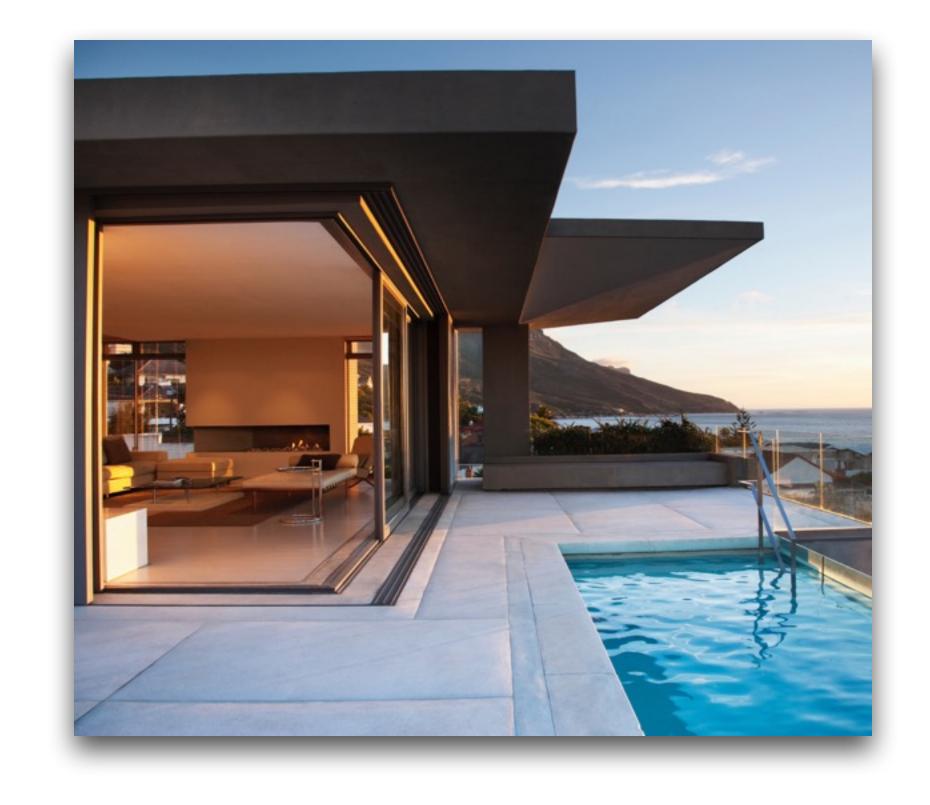


# FRANK HOWARD ALLEN

Marketing homes in the north bay.

# Frank Howard Allen Realtors

We reinvigorated Frank Howard Allen's legacy of excellence to help them recapture market share in the high-end real estate sector of the North Bay. Our work spotlights the things the audience cares about. Small wonder it's helped Frank Howard Allen become the largest independently owned and operated brokerage in the North Bay, and placed them among the top 60 real estate companies nationally.





### **Target Audience**

FHA is concerned about losing sales at the high-end of the Marin market. FHA needs to convince luxury home sellers to list with a FHA agent. The agents feel that the high-end listing decision is heavily rational and driven by men more than women: 45-60 average age, wealthy, often owning second homes etc.

And in many instances, the act of selling the home coincides with a major emotional life-change such as divorce, empty-nest, a sudden Facebook fortune, market crash etc. However, FHA agents feel that selling a high-end home is first and foremost a business transaction.

 Persuade the luxury homes owners to list their properties with Frank Howard Allen. 2. Attract high-end agents to affiliate with Frank Howard Allen. 3. Remind high-end buyers to look to Frank Howard Allen. Who do we need to reach? Sellers of Marin properties in the \$2M+ range. Secondary: FHA is concerned about losing sales at the high-end of the Marin market. FHA Buyers who want the best needs to convince luxury home sellers to list with a FHA agent. The agents feel selection of luxury homes that the high-end listing decision is heavily rational and driven by men more for great prices than women: 45-60 average age, wealthy, often owning second homes etc. Recruit real estate agents And in many instances, the act of selling the home coincides with a major who seek to sell high-end emotional life-change such as divorce, empty-nest, a sudden Facebook properties in Marin. fortune, market crash etc. However, FHA agents feel that selling a high-end Remind FHA agents why home is first and foremost a business transaction. Note: FHA agents feel they the company is strong at are not well served by FHA's high-end marketing. The agents want their company advertising to stand out--and make an impact on high-end sellers. the high-end. What do we say? To tie it all together, we should explore a message that shows that listing with FHA offers: Global exposure (with listings on the internet and Wall Street Journal). Access to the best agents. 3. 100 years of selling high-end properties and experience in Marin An unsurpassed understanding of Marin 5. Access to the hidden real estate market--the large number of buyers and sellers who never get onto the MLS--but do contact FHA. We are not just selling houses; we are selling homes. In other words: IMPRESS, EMPATHIZE, Some key facts we need to know: FHA has been DELIVER The big idea? serving Marin and the North Bay for over 100 vears. FHA's main competitors in the high-end are No one understands the high-end of Marin Sotheby's and Pacific Union. FHA is most like an FHA agent. threatened by their competitors' brand, "global reach" and upscale marketing. Tone and personality? Sophisticated, expert, confident, humble and honest. The project: Luxury Division print ads: Challenges / considerations Mortar will develop two concepts for Luxury Division print ads that will be published in Marin Magazine. Ads will have to appeal to multiple audiences Concepts should expand on the original "Love where with opposing objectives (buyers, sellers and you live" tagline but be specific to FHA's Luxury agents). Reconciling all the clients' asks may be Division, FHA will choose one concept. Mortar will difficult due to diverse requests and the execute 3 print ads and deliver final files to FHA. contradictory nature of the messaging.



### **Key Insights**

FHA has been serving Marin and the North Bay for over 100 years. FHA's main competitors in the high-end are Sotheby's and Pacific Union. FHA is most threatened by their competitors' brand, "global reach" and upscale marketing. Global exposure (with listings on the internet and Wall Street Journal).

FHA has: Access to the best agents. 100 years of selling high-end properties and experience in Marin. An unsurpassed understanding of Marin. Access to the hidden real estate market--the large number of buyers and sellers who never get onto the MLS--but do contact FHA.

We are not just selling houses; we are selling homes.

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### **Strategic Decision**

We are not selling houses. We are selling homes.



### A-ha moment

No one understands Marin like Frank Howard Allen





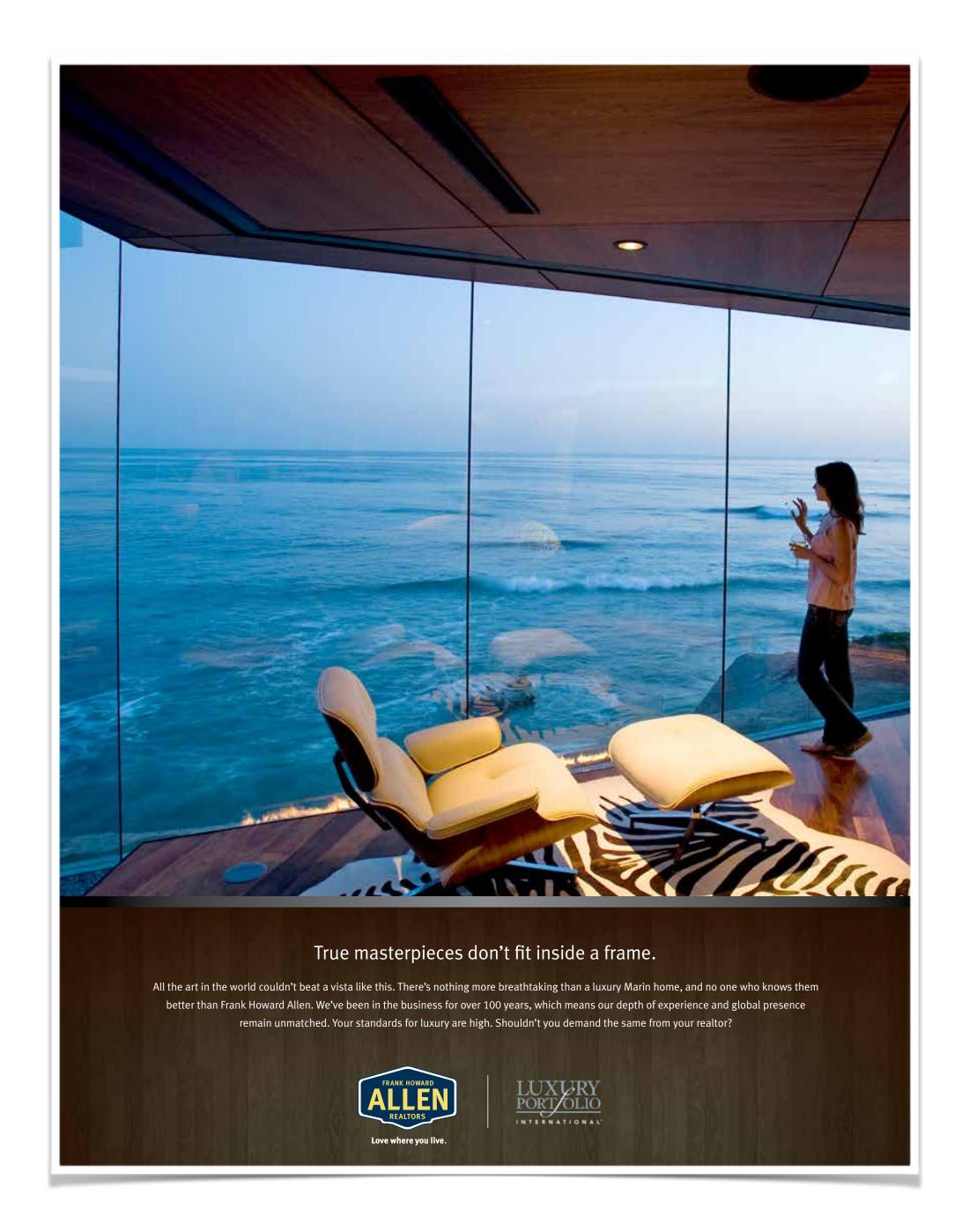








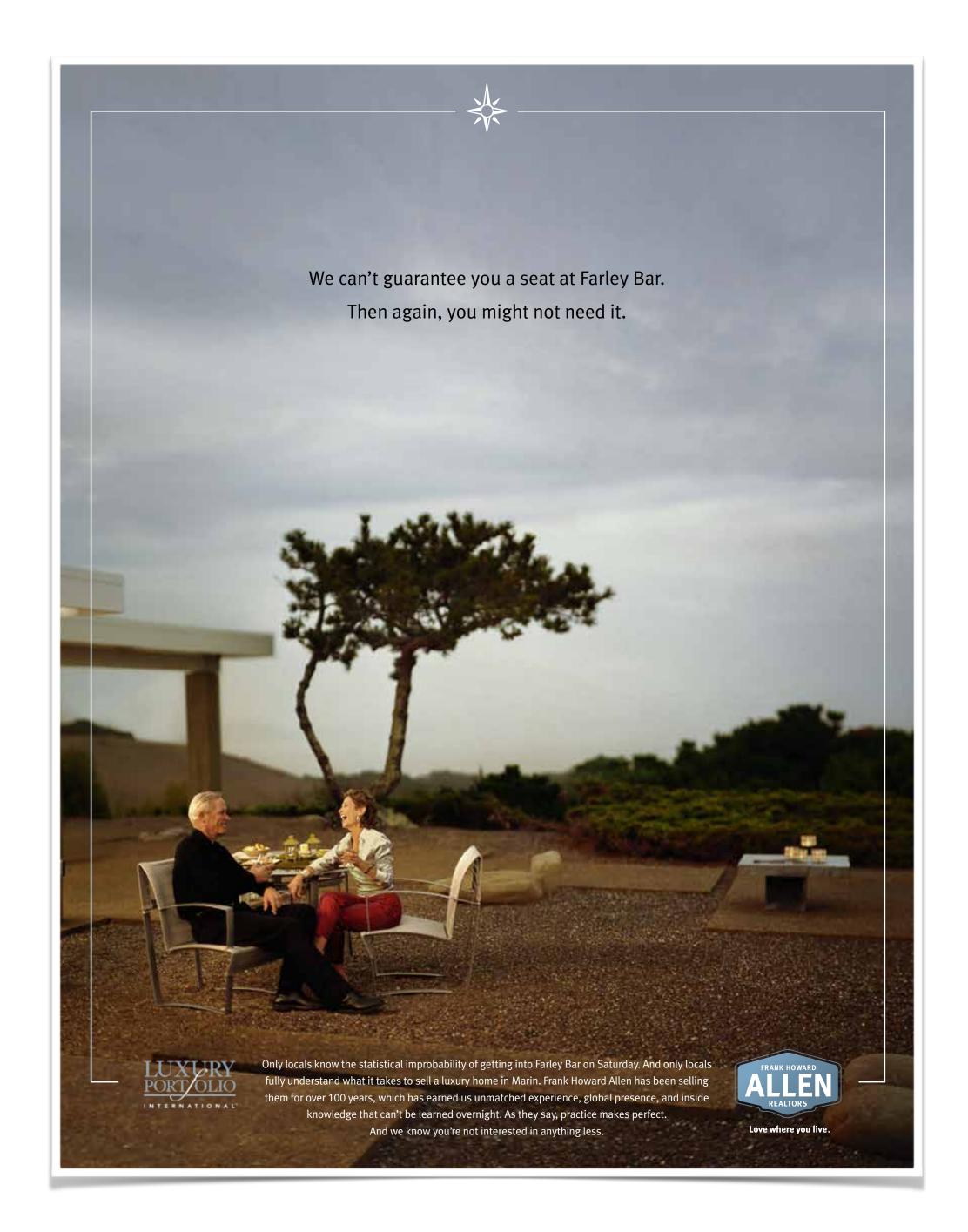














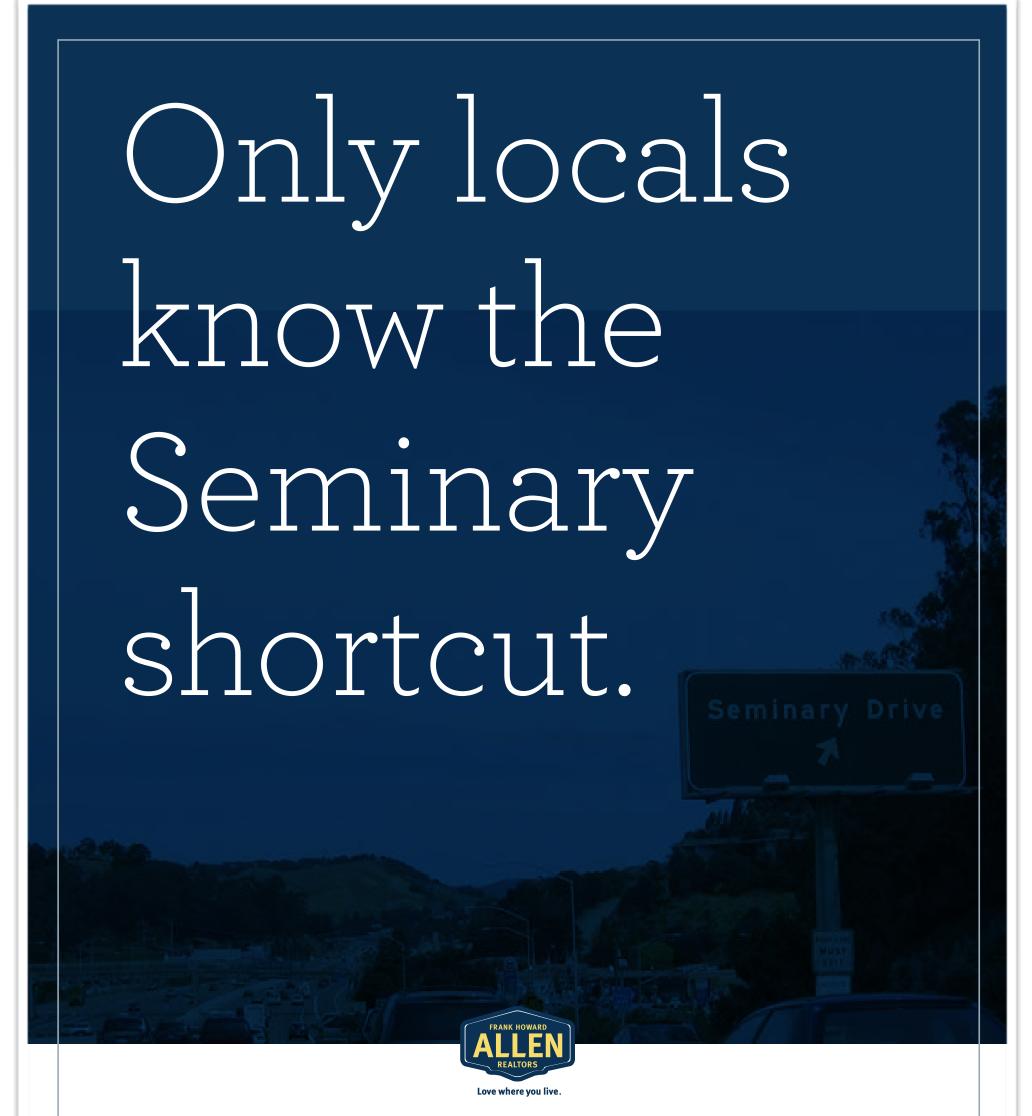
We've been saved by Seminary more than once. And no, we're not talking about school.





Only locals know the shortcuts. And only locals fully understand what it takes to sell a luxury home in Marin. We've been selling them for over 100 years, which has earned us unmatched experience, global presence, and inside knowledge that can't be learned overnight. As they say, practice makes perfect. And we know you're not interested in anything less.





And only locals fully understand what it takes to sell a luxury home in Marin. We've been selling them for over 100 years, which has earned us unmatched experience, global presence, and inside knowledge that can't be learned overnight. As they say, practice makes perfect. And we know you're not interested in anything less.





### Frank Howard Allen: Results

FHA is the leading realtor in Marin and Sonoma counties.



## EXPLORATORIUM

Marketing a major bay area tourist attraction

### EXPLORATORIUM

Global arts and sciences museum, pioneers of interactive exhibits.

Developed unique set of exhibits with NSF grant.

Challenge: explain an experience.

How to activate a value proposition in an unexpected way.





### **Strategic Decision**

The marketing can be an extension of the exhibits.



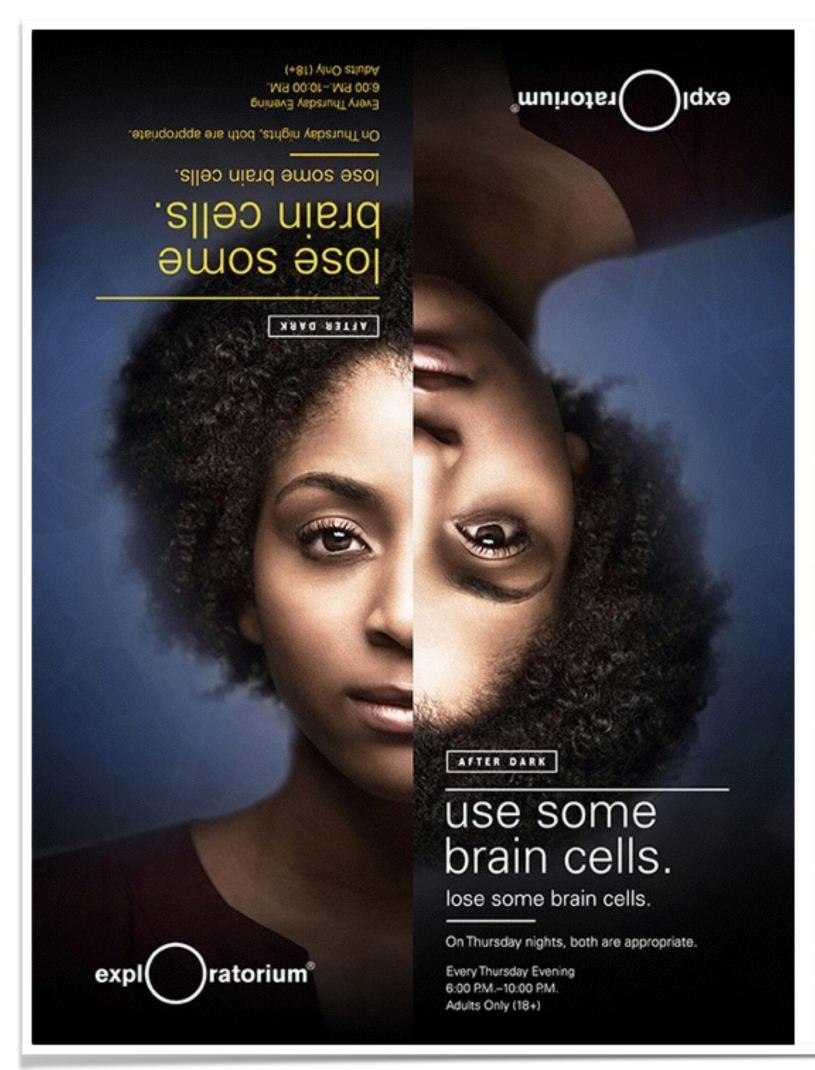
### A-ha moment

Adults enjoy it as much as kids do. Let's capitalize on that.

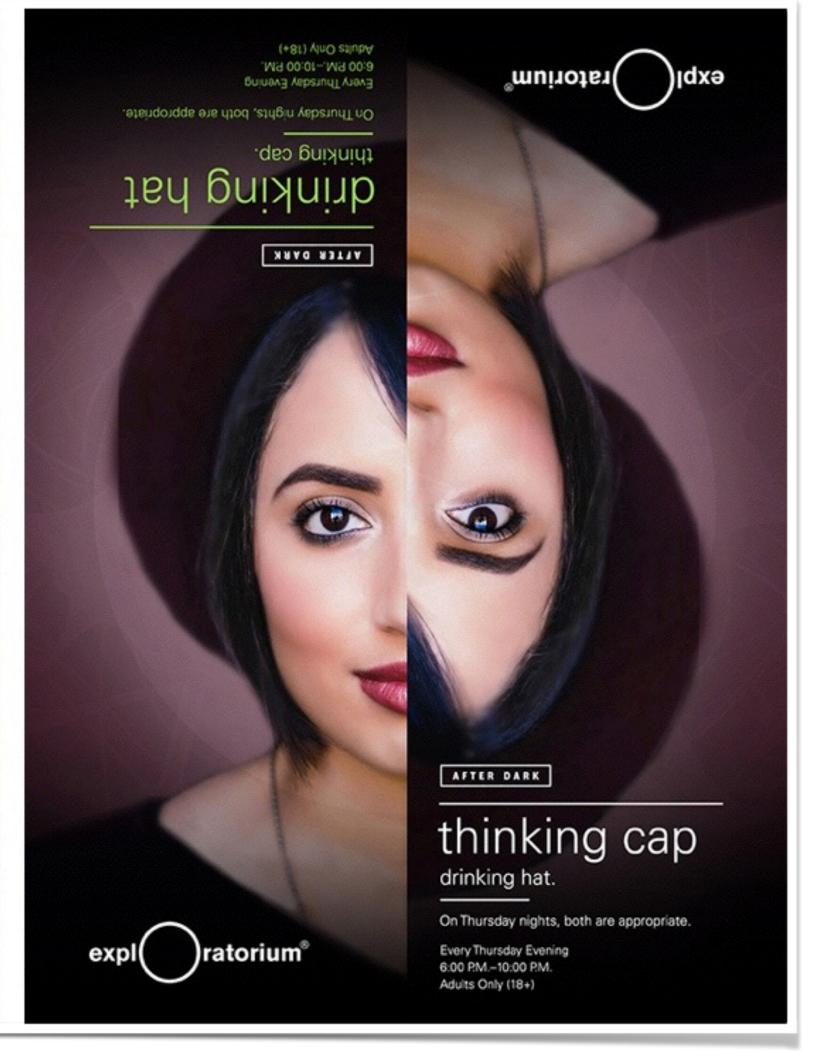
















VISIT

**EXPLORE** 

thinking cap.

.qeətdgin

EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT

**EDUCATION** 

**COLLABORATIONS** 

0 SEARCH

nightcap.

#### Calendar Events

After Dark

Kids + Families

Live Webcasts

Members

#### Plan Your Visit

Directions and Parking

Newsletter

Every Thursday • 6:00-10:00 p.m.

Location: Exploratorium Pier 15

Admission: \$15 General; \$10 Members; Free for Lab Members

Please Note: Adults Only (18+)

**Thursday Nights** 

MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT CALENDAR STORE TICKETS NEWSLETTER

**Upcoming Program** 

EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT

thinking cap.









Thursday Nights/Adults

Arts

Cinema Arts

Excursions

Free

**Holiday Hours** 

Lab Members

Ongoing

Hours

Get Tickets

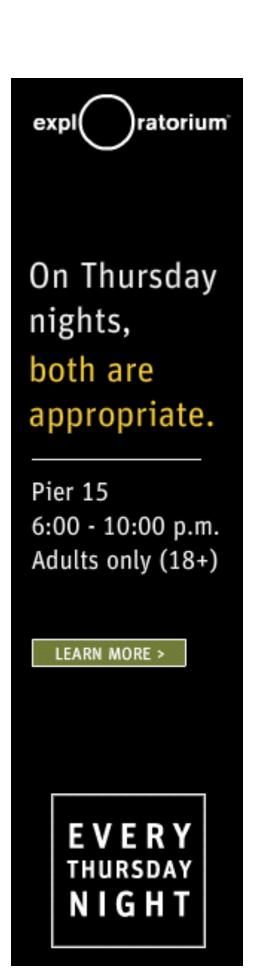
Accessibility

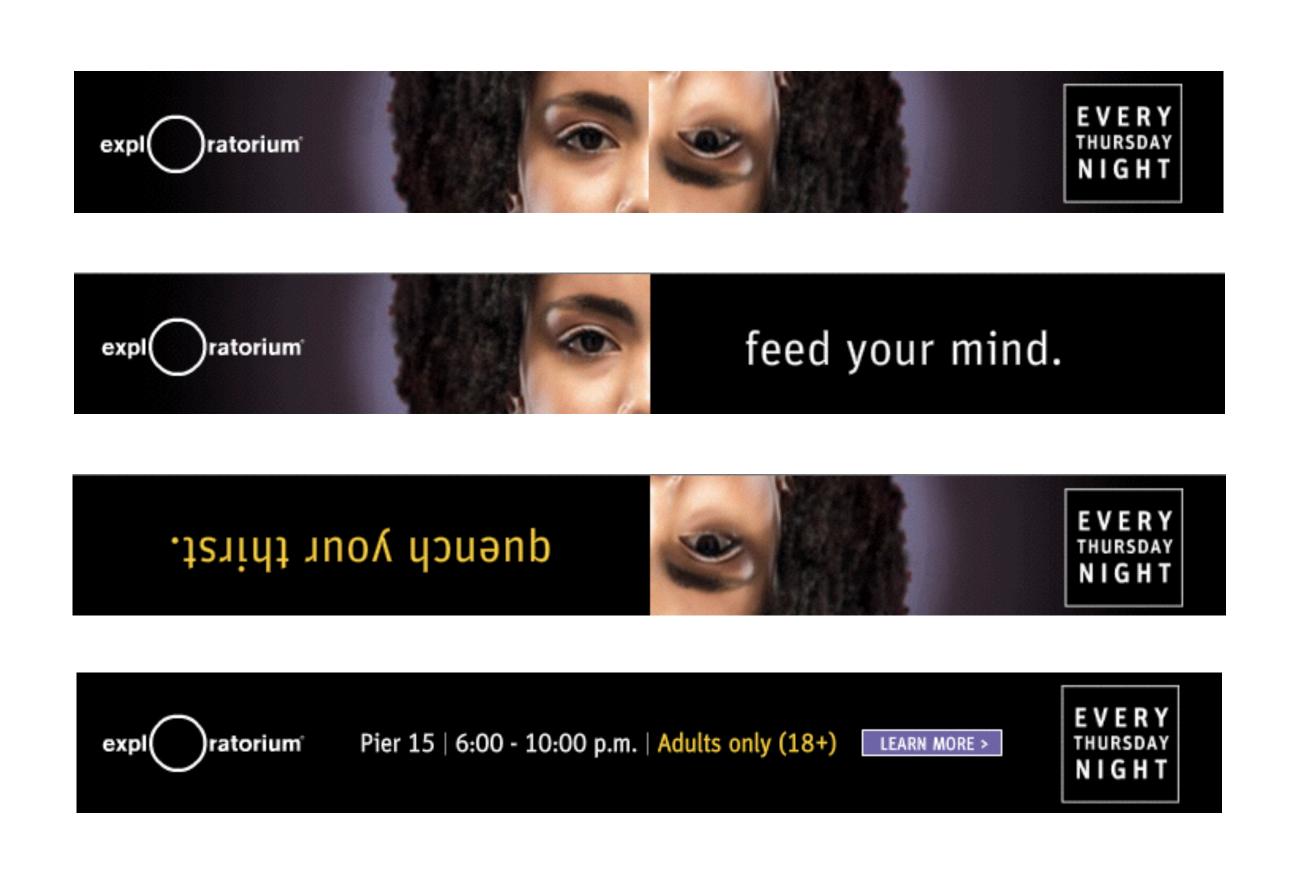
Visit FAQ







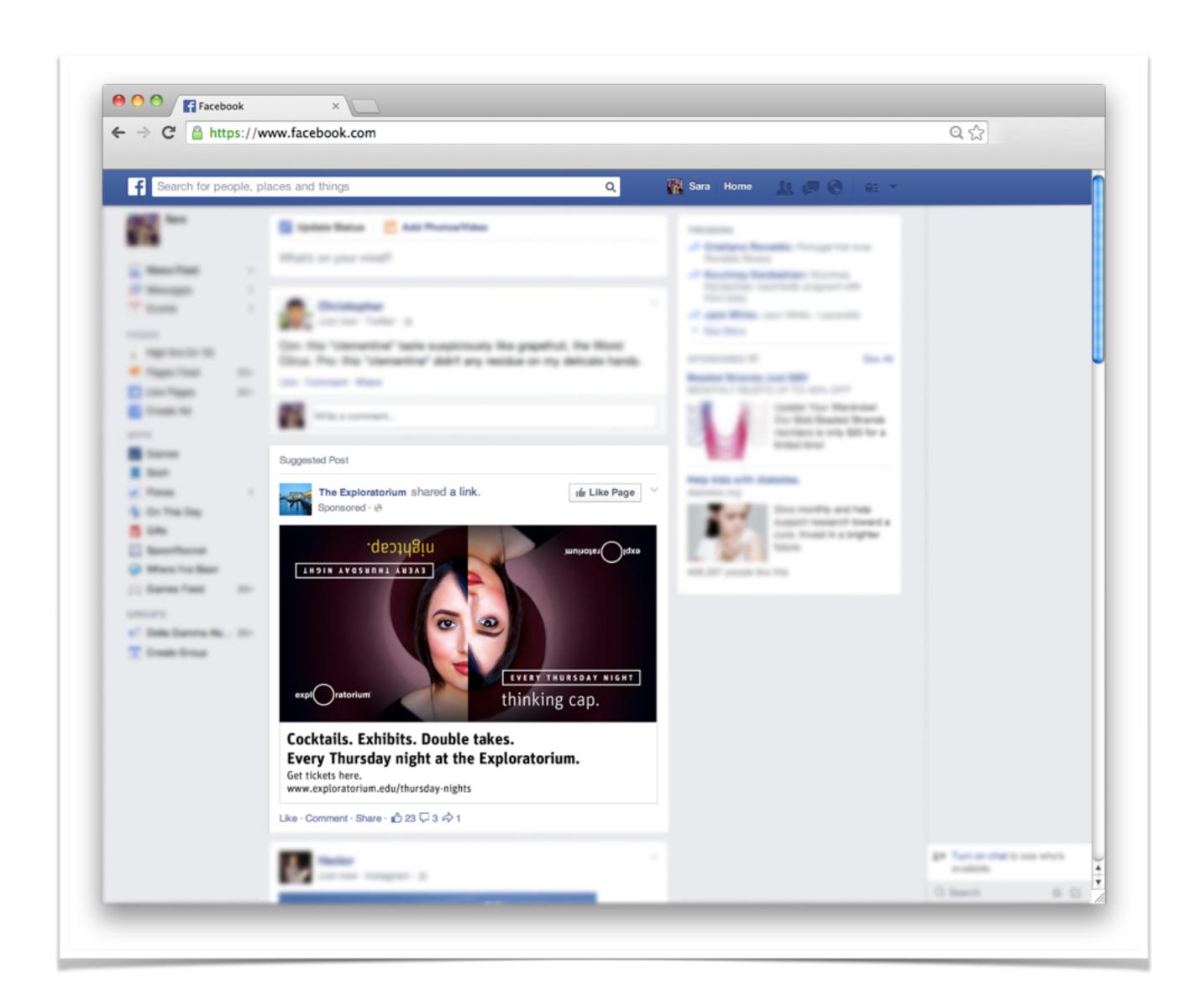


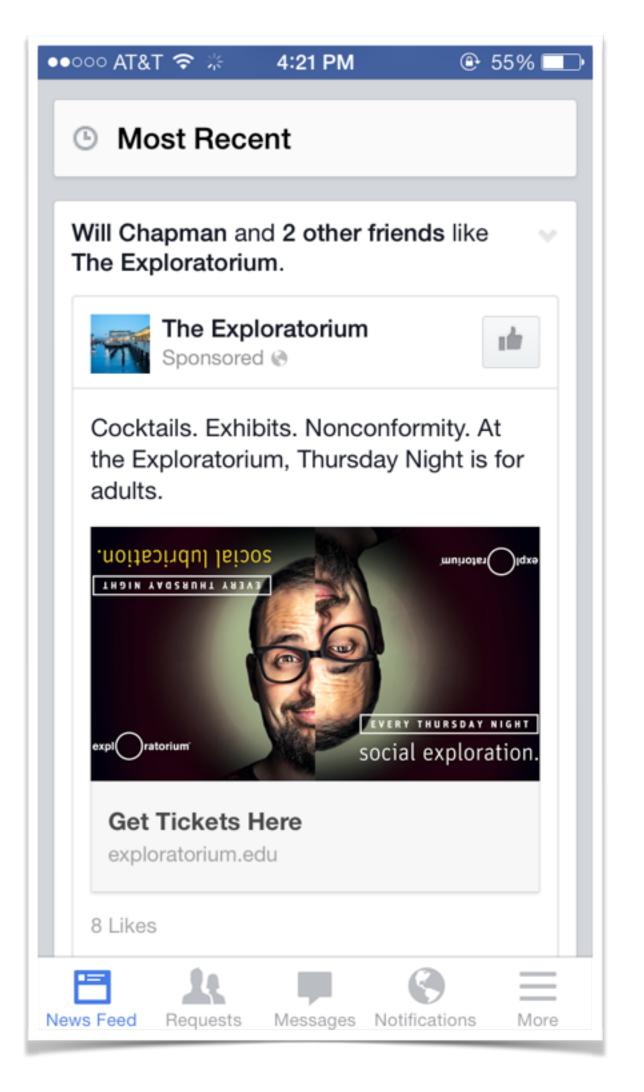














## Exploratorium: Results

Exploratorium will beat its budget for the first time since opening.



# Marin Community Foundation

Absolute Connectedness

## Marin Community Foundation

Challenge: The organization was suffering from misperceptions and misunderstandings because people who have the power to influence are misguided or confused.

Target: The people of Marin.

Value: MCF creates profound, tangible community impact through an absolute connectedness with Marin and its people.



### **Strategic Decision**

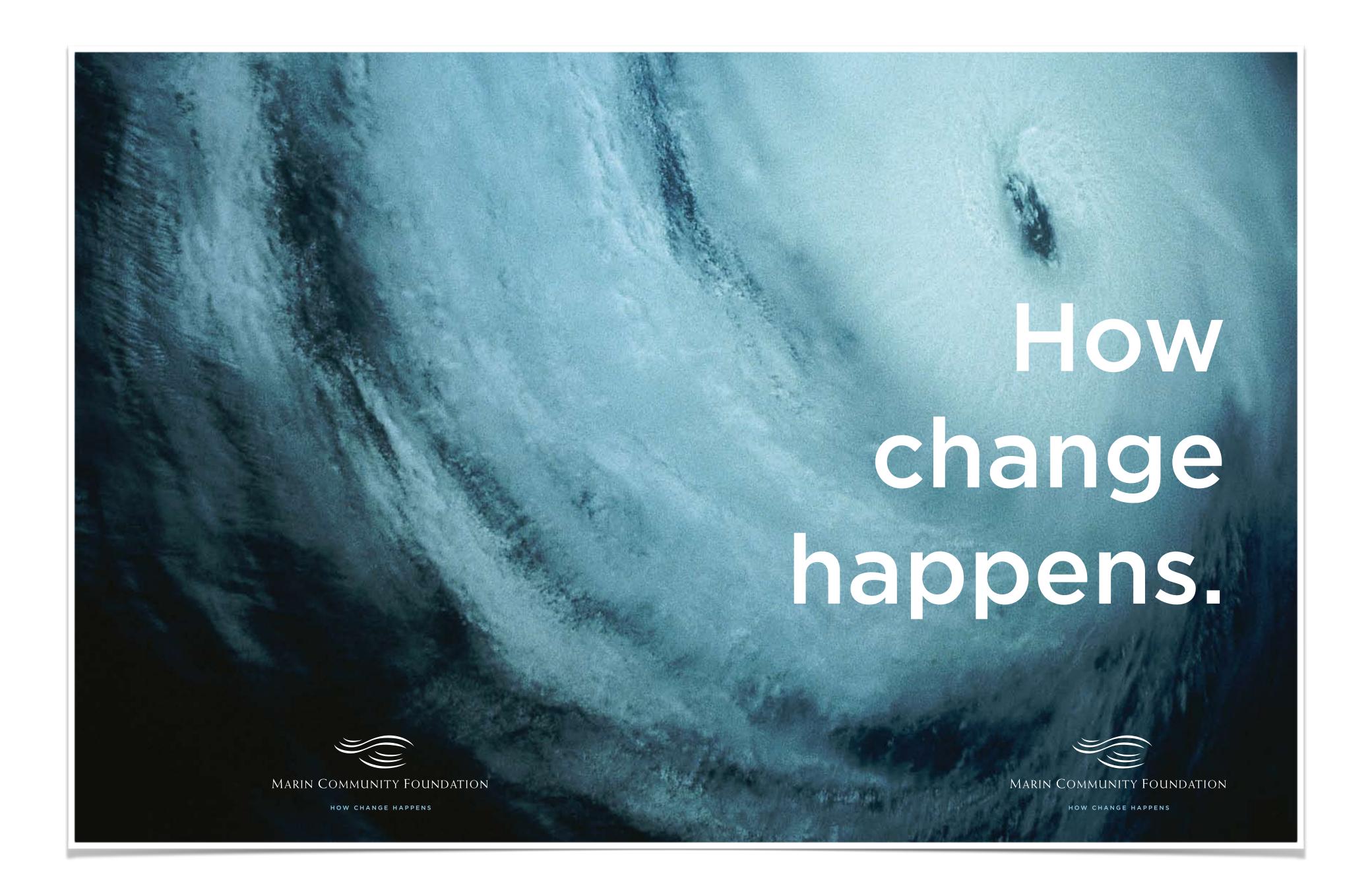
We are not just investing in Marin. We invest in the future of the planet.



### A-ha moment

Even when people are giving their money away, they want to know it's working hard.



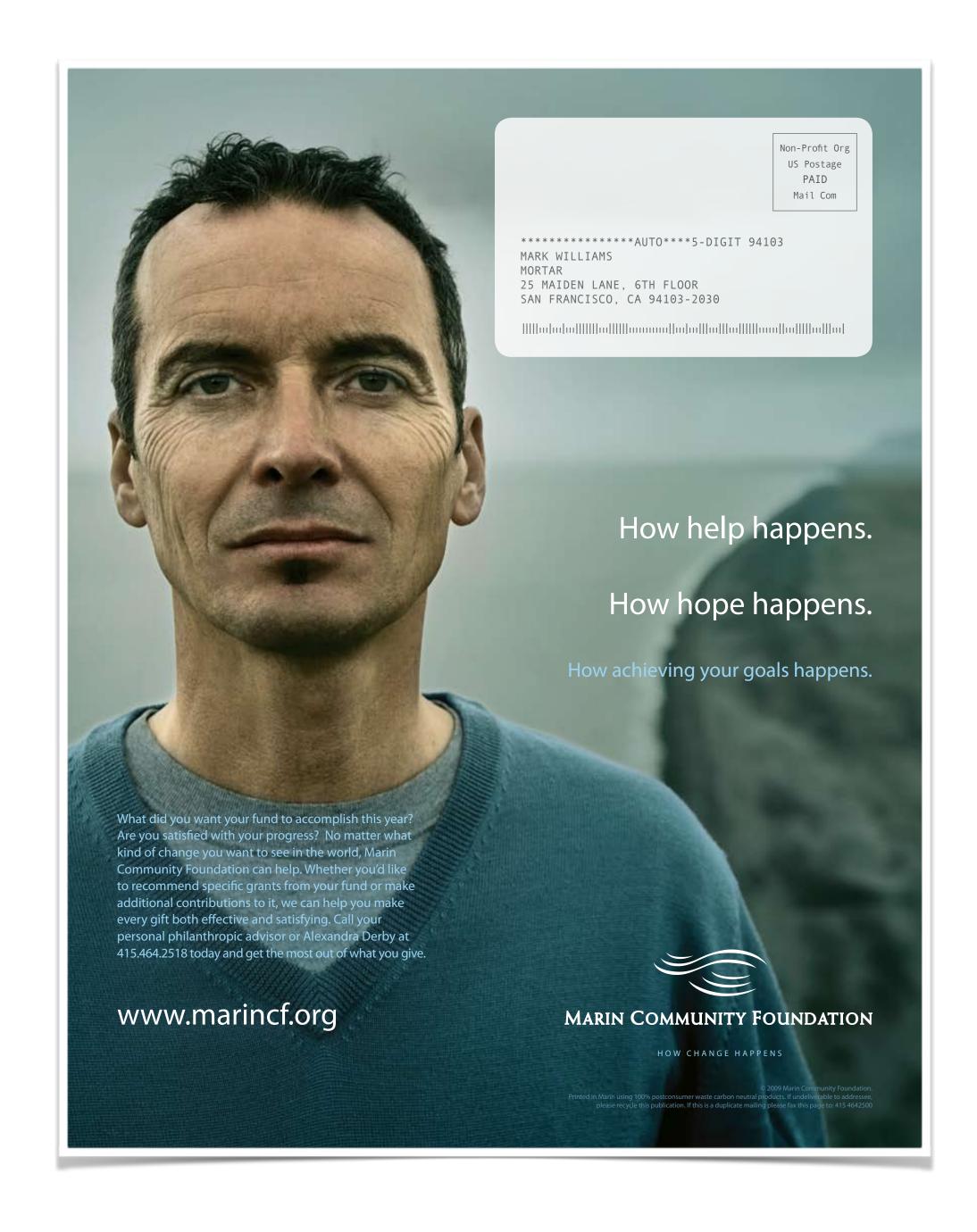




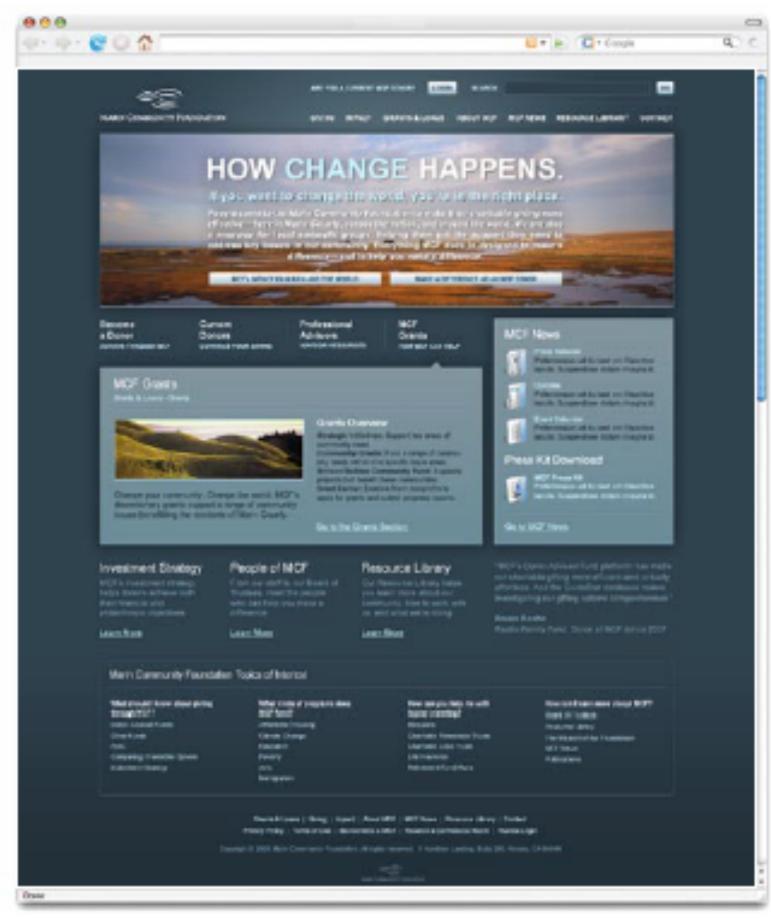




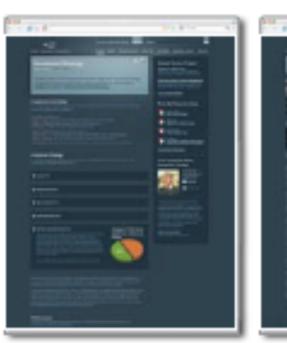










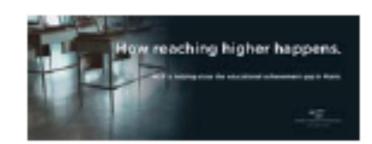




#### Brand Video :90









How stopping the breating happens











### MCF: Results

MCF broke records for fund raising and investor satisfaction.



## PLAYA VIVA

Making Eco-Heaven a place on earth

# Playa Viva

The fast-growing market segment, Lifestyles Of Health And Sustainability, make an easy target for this eco-friendly resort. We gave Playa Viva's brand a clean, simple, community-oriented feel that speaks the language LOHAS Moms (aka: decision makers) love. A match made in ecoheaven.

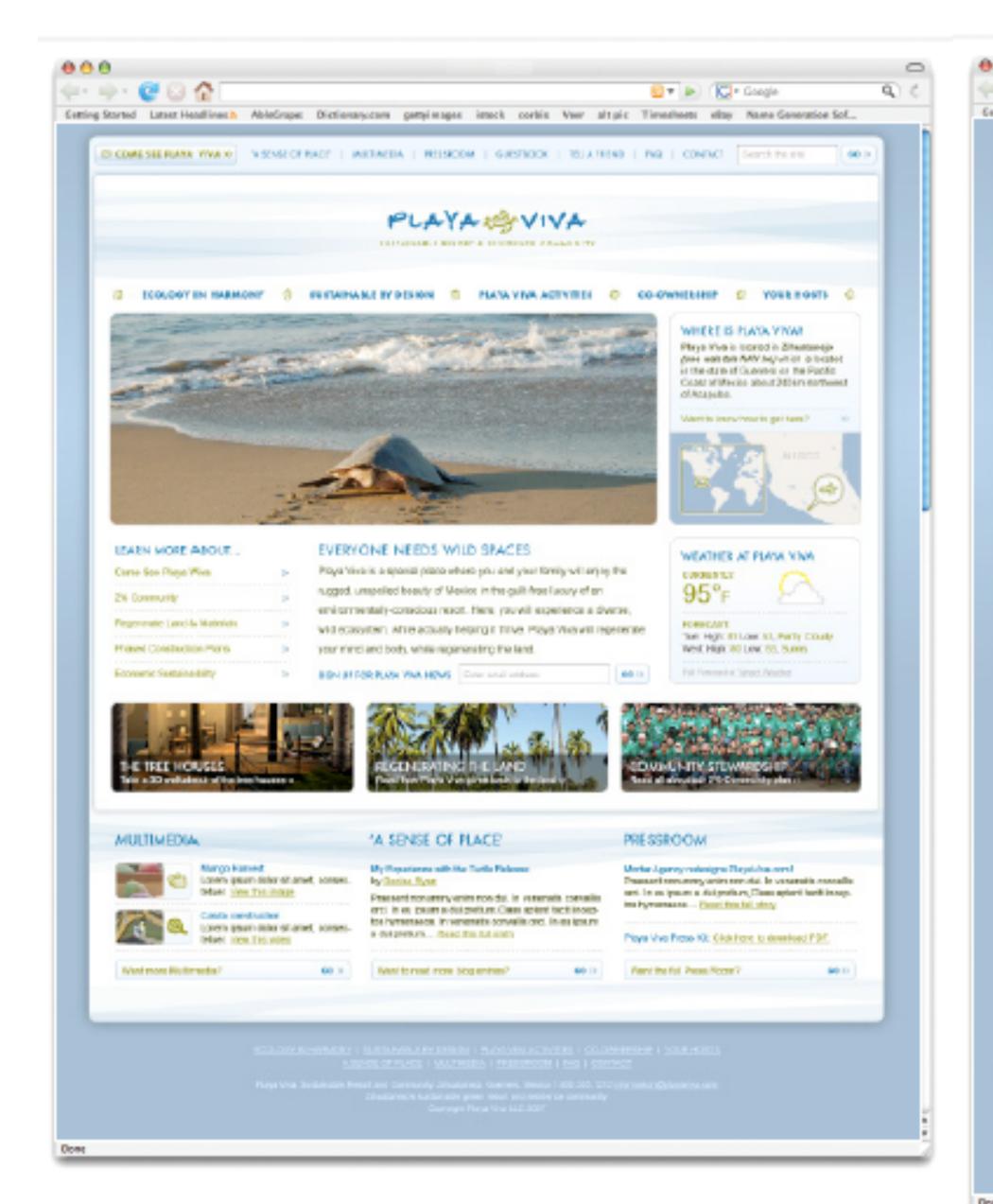
















# THE ORPHALESE

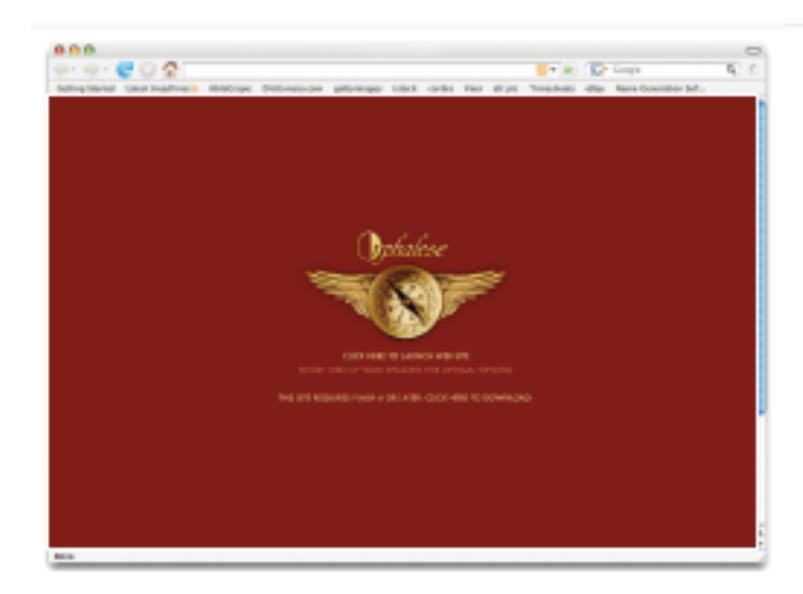
HELLO, SAILOR!

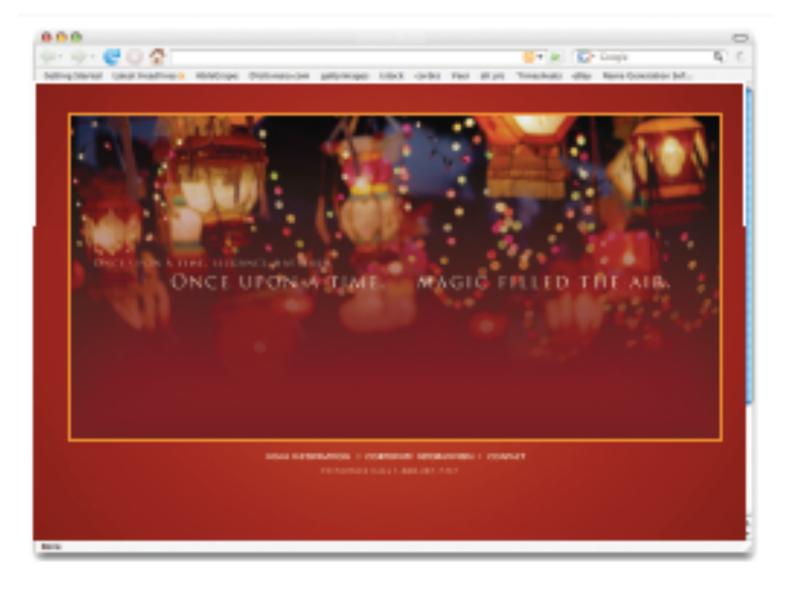
## The Orphalese

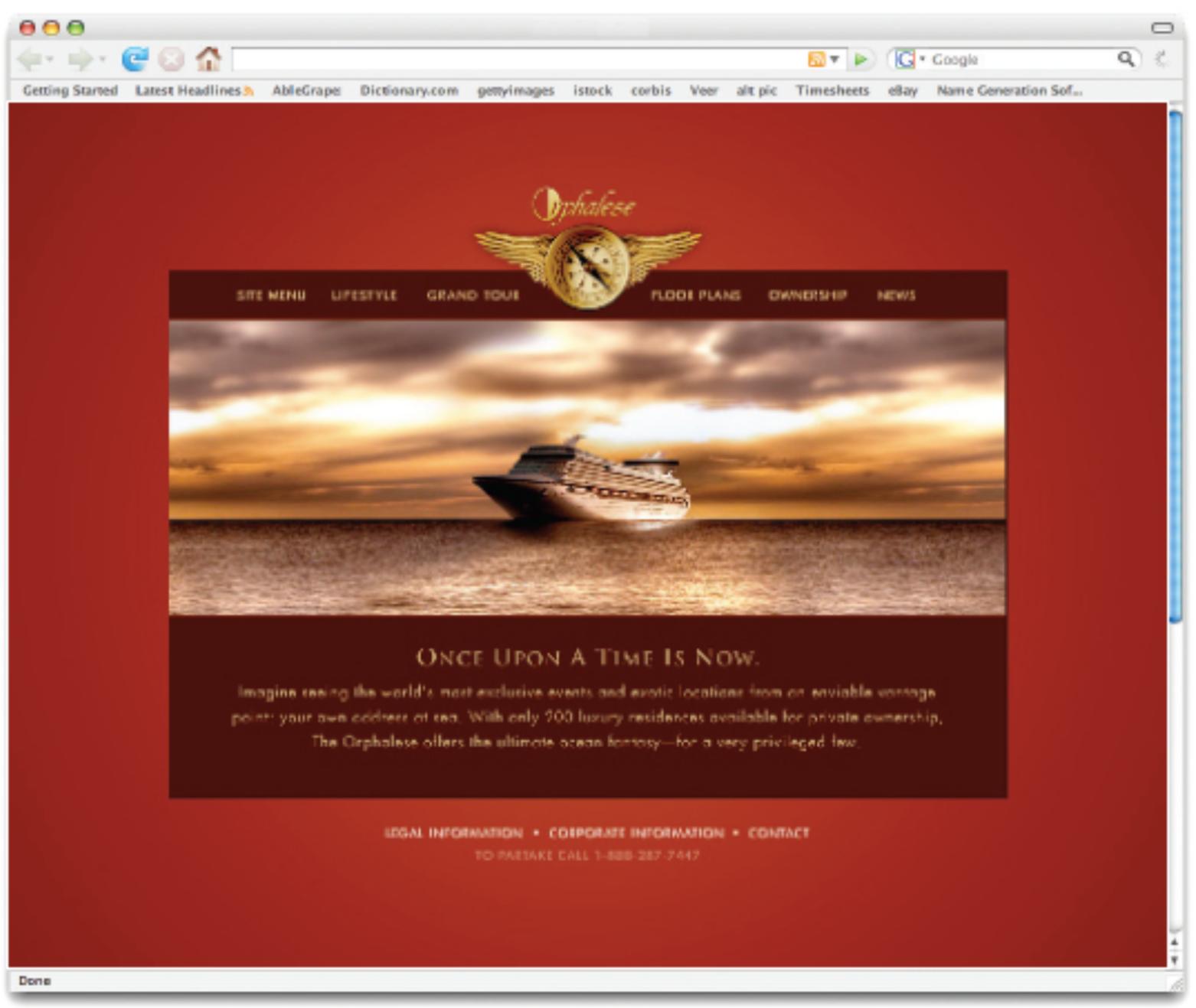
This luxury liner was named after the mythical city in Kahlil Gibran's The Prophet, where the seer delivered his message to the citizens of Orphalese "with a singing heart" after 12 years at sea. Ordinarily, we couldn't think of a thing in the world that would make us want to spend 12 years on a boat. That was before we saw the Orphalese.





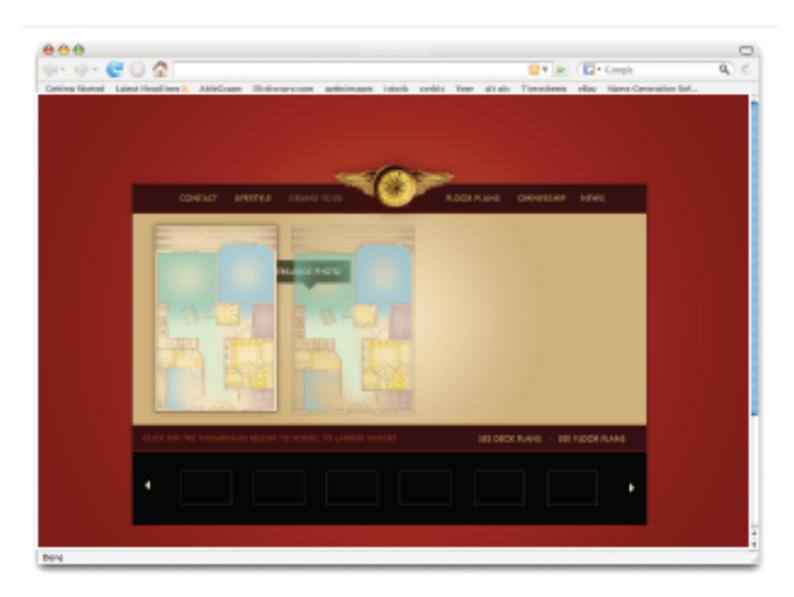


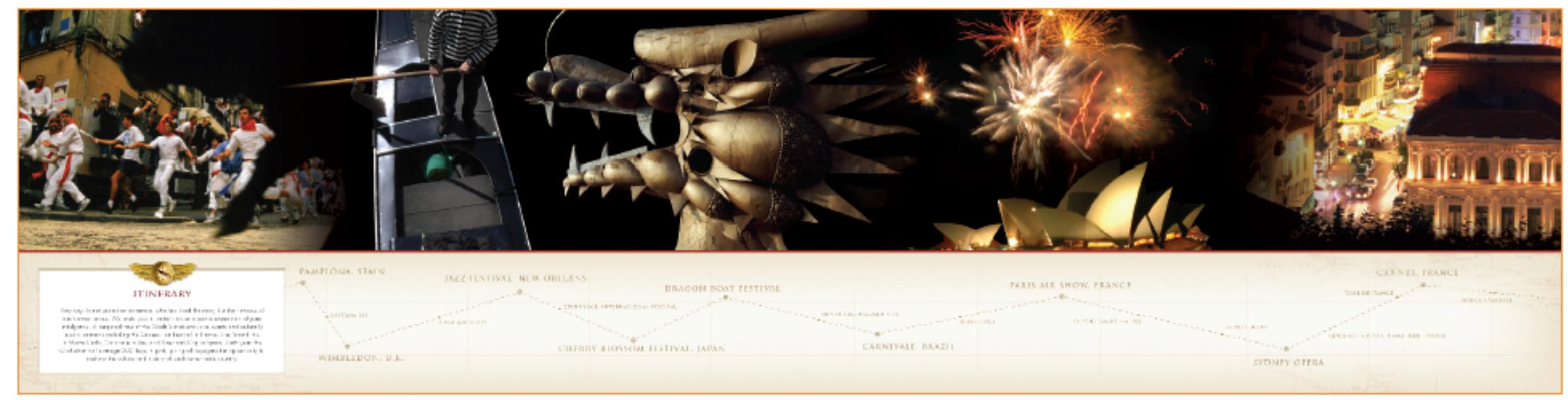














## ABOUT MORTAR

You asked: Cite a collaboration effort your company initiated, bringing separate companies and/or groups together for marketing or promotional purposes.

You're responsible for every dollar you spend. Yet you've sent an RFP to a bunch of creative types, asking them to make art. That's a nerve-wracking proposition. We think our collaborative approach makes that dynamic a little less frightening. Here's what we mean: When we first engaged with the Reno Sparks CVA, they couldn't stop telling us about how they thought they were the "Sonoma of the North" and/or "Vegas, Jr." But their tourism numbers didn't bear that out. So we asked the tourists themselves. Sure, we got some scary answers, like "Not a lot of teeth on those people." But we also got some interesting ones. About authenticity. Good-weirdness. And unique brands of fun no other destination could offer. We brought that data back to the client. Got their heads nodding. Together, we found a path we could turn the creatives loose on. And together, we made every dollar they spent work harder.



You asked: Cite a collaboration effort your company initiated, bringing separate companies and/or groups together for marketing or promotional purposes.

On a more practical note, collaboration is central to all things Mortar, and there's no better example of our role as a catalyst and organizer that our ongoing work with the Exploratorium.

Our relationship together began strictly within the framework of Marketing and Advertising services, but it quickly became clear that in order to position the institution in a fresh, modern way that was in-line with internal expectations, we'd need to bring many different groups to the table. Over the last three years, we've evolved our working relationship with our Marketing clients at the Exploratorium, bringing internal and external groups together to form a unified team moving to meet the same goals. This is unprecedented territory, and it's directly impacted overall brand perception, and the bottom line.

On the following page you'll find a list of the groups/entities that we've pulled together in our unified marketing efforts and what we contribute within each category.



### **Marketing**

It all started here with our work as Agency of Record on all marketing and advertising efforts.

### Online Social Engagement

- Define all social extension of campaign work
- Produce social campaigns that connect to marketing

### **Museum Experience**

- Connect marketing to current museum programming

#### **Membership**

- Help define membership messaging and creative output to tie to overall marketing efforts

#### **Fulfillment**

- Work with external vendors on the design and distribution of key print pieces/mailers

#### **Public Relations**

 Leverage PR department to use museum contacts to connect media efforts to marketing

#### Web & Content

- Collaborate on design of campaign landing pages
  - Close the loop on online transactions

### **Exhibit Design**

- Work with exhibition designers on build of museum floor to connect to look-and-feel of external advertising

### **Fundraising**

- Connect marketing efforts to fundraising initiatives, creating fundraising video/branding for Exploratorium Gala

#### **3rd Party Media Partners**

- Help negotiate and manage contracts with media partners to gain promotional opportunities

#### **Global Studios**

- Tie marketing efforts to global institutional learning efforts taking place promoting Exploratorium mission abroad



Item	Experience rating	Comment	
Creative partnerships	5	Mortar is a creative partnership. Working well with creative partners of all sorts is in our DNA.	
Destination marketing	5	Our experience spans multiple destinations and experiences in the Bay area including Reno Tahoe, the San Francisco Dungeon and Exploratorium.	
Non-profit Rebranding	5	Mortar's experience with non-profits includes the Marin Community Foundation and the SFAids Foundation. We even have our own Foundation.	
Digital, print and broadcast media	5	Every campaign detailed here was executed online and in print and broadcast.	
Industry partners, including but not limited to CalTravel, Visit California, Destination Marketing Association International, Discover America	5	Extensive. We currently work with CalTravel for SF Dungeon.	



ltem	Experience rating	Comment
Online portals, including TripAdvisor, Visit California, Gay Travel	5	Extensive.
Photography & videography	5	See examples.
Website production	5	See examples.
Trade Media, including group travel, sports and meetings & events	5	See examples.



To find out more contact mark@mortaragency.com

