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Endorsement Letter for Prof. Lorenzo Imbesi

To whom it may concern.

It is with great enthusiasm that I write to endorse Prof. Lorenzo Imbesi for a second term as President of Cumulus. As Vice President of Tongji University and a former Vice President of Cumulus, I have closely witnessed Prof. Imbesi's visionary leadership, unwavering dedication to global design education, and transformative impact on our community. His re-election will undoubtedly ensure Cumulus continues to thrive as a beacon of innovation and collaboration.

Prof. Imbesi's credentials exemplify excellence. As a Full Professor of Industrial Design at Sapienza University of Rome and two-term Director of Sapienza Design Research (SDR), he has advanced design research while fostering interdisciplinary dialogue. His roles as Chair of the PhD in Service Design for the Public Sector and President of the Italian Society of Design (SID) highlight his commitment to nurturing future leaders and addressing societal challenges through design. His editorial leadership in journals such as the *Design Journal* and *Design Principles and Practices* further cements his status as a thought leader.

Since assuming the presidency in 2022, Prof. Imbesi has elevated Cumulus's global stature. Building on his prior service as an Executive Board member (2016–2022), he has spearheaded initiatives like the Cumulus PhD Network, empowering emerging scholars, and co-chaired landmark conferences such as Cumulus Roma 2020-2021. His stewardship through the pandemic underscored his adaptability, ensuring continuity in knowledge exchange. As co-chair of ReVeDA, he has strengthened design research frameworks, aligning Cumulus with pressing global imperatives such as sustainability and social innovation.

Prof. Imbesi's international acumen—forged through academic roles at Carleton University, Columbia, and Hong Kong Polytechnic—positions Cumulus as a truly global network. Under his leadership, partnerships between institutions like Sapienza and Tongji University have flourished, fostering cross-cultural innovation. His presidency has prioritized inclusivity, ensuring diverse voices from Europe, Asia, the Americas, and beyond shape Cumulus's agenda.



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I believe a second term will enable Prof. Imbesi to advance strategic priorities such as digital transformation in design education, climate action, and equitable access to creative resources. His proven ability to unite academia, industry, and policymakers ensures Cumulus remains at the forefront of addressing 21st-century challenges.

Prof. Imbesi's blend of scholarly rigor, institutional leadership, and global vision makes him uniquely qualified to lead Cumulus. I wholeheartedly endorse his candidacy and am confident his continued presidency will drive our association to new heights.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

Best regards.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lou Yongqi' in Chinese characters.

Prof. Dr. LOU Yongqi

Vice President, Tongji University

Past Vice President of CUMULUS

Founding Co-Editor-in-Chief, She Ji. The Journal of Design, Economics, and Innovation

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