

Cumulus International Association  
of Universities and Colleges of Art,  
Design and Media  
PO Box 31000, 00076 Aalto  
Finland

General Secretary Eija Salmi,

To Whom it may concern,

As one of the founding members of the first Cumulus Executive Board and having witnessed the evolution of this remarkable association for over three decades, as Academic Director of PoliarTE Design Academy and finally as President of Design Museum of Marche Region, I am writing to strongly endorse Professor Lorenzo Imbesi for his second term as President of the Cumulus Executive Board (2025-2028).

Having been privileged to watch alongside all of Cumulus's presidents, including my dear friend and colleague, the late President Luisa Collina, I have observed how each leader has contributed to shaping our association. In this context, I can confidently state that Professor Imbesi's presidency has brought a distinctive blend of respect for our heritage while boldly moving Cumulus into the future.

I have known Professor Imbesi for many years, first as a colleague at Sapienza University of Rome, where I witnessed his dedication to design education and research. His international experience, particularly as Professor and Chair of the Master of Design at Carleton University in Canada, has given him a truly global perspective that serves Cumulus well in its international mission. His deep commitment to Cumulus is evidenced by his dedicated service to the association: first as a Board member during President Luisa Collina's term (2016-2019), followed by a second term on the Executive Board, before being elected as President. This extensive experience within Cumulus's leadership, from Board member to President, has given him an invaluable understanding of the association's operations, challenges, and potential.

During his first term as President, Professor Imbesi has demonstrated remarkable leadership in guiding Cumulus through its transition to an independent association. His ability to balance innovation with tradition, while maintaining our core values of international cooperation and academic excellence, has been impressive.

What sets Professor Imbesi apart is his deep understanding of both the academic and professional dimensions of design. His research background, combined with his practical experience in international settings, enables him to bridge different design cultures and traditions – a crucial skill for leading an organization as diverse as Cumulus.

Having observed Cumulus's growth from its earliest days, I am particularly impressed by how Professor Imbesi has introduced new initiatives while preserving the original spirit of our association. His presidency has successfully balanced the need for organizational evolution with respect for the foundations laid by his predecessors.

Based on my extensive experience with Cumulus and my long-standing observation of Professor Imbesi's career, I am convinced he is the ideal candidate to lead our association through its next phase of development. His vision for Cumulus aligns perfectly with both our historical mission and our future challenges.

I wholeheartedly endorse his candidacy for a second term as President, confident that under his continued leadership, Cumulus will further strengthen its position as the preminent international network for design education.

Yours sincerely,  
Michele Capuani

