

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

Date: 03/02/2025

## Letter of Endorsement for Professor Lorenzo Imbesi

Dear Cumulus members,

It is a pleasure to provide a letter of support and endorsement for the nomination of Professor Lorenzo Imbesi for re-election as the next President of Cumulus Association and to lead Cumulus for the next term, 2025-2028.

In my position as Head of Central Saint Martins and Pro-Vice Chancellor of University of the Arts London, I have witnessed Professor Imbesi's energy and dedication to the international design community, combined with his strong commitment to inclusivity and visionary change. His career achievements and current Presidency make him an ideal candidate for the Association.

I would like to highlight Professor Imbesi's key achievements during his first term of leadership which have encouraged participation and innovation: the successful transition of Cumulus to an independent association; the launching of successful new initiatives—the new community of practice through PhD Network, the Student Talent Camp (2023-) and Regional Seminars.

Professor Imbesi has expanded Cumulus international outreach through deeply held values of democracy, openness, inclusivity, co-design and integrity, resulting in expanded global presence (with now 395 members) strengthened cross-cultural connections and his consistent focus and advocacy on inclusion and diversity. His vision for design education in a world of complexity and uncertainty has been to foreground plurality, with design as a powerful force and Cumulus as a point of reference for building peace and cross-cultural open dialogue. True to his intention to understand the right speed and protocols for decision making and always striving for unity, the result has been three years of impactful innovation which have fully respected the traditions and values that bind the Cumulus community together.

From a University of the Arts London perspective, we are witnessing enhanced knowledge exchange between member institutions and a global network which is actively fulfilling its mission to elevate the positive roles of design in creating humane, regenerative, and planetary futures for all.

With best wishes



Rathna Ramanathan  
**Head of Central Saint Martins and Pro Vice Chancellor, University of the Arts London**