



Cumulus Newsletter • January 2022

# President's Message

## A New Year, A New Social Contract For Education

Every new calendar year marks a time of new beginnings. While the stubborn grip of the COVID pandemic continues to bring us disruptions and challenges that come to us with an odd sense of déjà vu, we are also on our way to emerging from two years of non-stop crises with renewed optimism.

Things are looking up not only because of the many triumphs on the science and public health fronts, but also due to the cumulative learnings and newfound resilience we have amassed from teaching, learning, and practicing our respective disciplines of art, design, and media in circumstances that have stretched our imagination and capacity to innovate and adapt.

Earlier this week, January 24, marked the UN's fourth edition of the international day of education with the theme "Changing Course, Transforming Education." As we know well, in the context of the pandemic, we have continued to experience many losses in the education sector that have only exacerbated existing inequities. That said, amid the pain and chaos, an unwavering sense of urgency has also emerged, shining light on the importance of education as a human right, a public endeavor, and a common good. In this discussion, the articulation of the role of our creative disciplines stands out as more essential to champion than ever.

If you have not already, I invite you to check the recent UNESCO report, [\*Reimagining our futures together: A new social contract for education\*](#). It is an inspiring blueprint for reflecting on ways we might redefine our relationships as creatives, educators, and human beings on a fragile planet. The report is also a call to address a design brief close to my heart and that of many of our Cumulus members: how we might design new pedagogies of solidarity and cooperation that treasure creativity, diversity, and pluralism.

With my best wishes for a brilliant 2022 to all, here's to that!

*Mariana*

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