

# Cumulus Regional Meetings

## **Call for Regional Meetings, Seminars, Exhibitions, Shows, Workshops**

For more than 30 years, Cumulus has been the only global association serving education and research in art, design, and media. To unleash the massive potential of Cumulus members and their home institutions, we gather as a truly global community, breaking down barriers and celebrating education and research across all our disciplines. Our aim is to create impact by connecting local members and stakeholders to strengthen economic, social, cultural, and environmental development worldwide, aligned with Cumulus’s founding mission: sharing knowledge and best practices.

Cumulus Regional Meetings offer a unique opportunity to intensify connections within our growing Cumulus family. The traditional Cumulus conferences held twice yearly may not fully leverage the value of such an inclusive association for the global community. Following successful pilot regional meetings in China and Japan in 2023, which demonstrated the value of collective action even in a streamlined format, we are opening the Call for Cumulus Regional Meetings in 2026.

### **What is a Cumulus Regional Meeting?**

Cumulus Regional Meetings are a new initiative designed to provide more distributed events and activities for members, enabling truly inclusive engagement. Complementing our main conferences, these meetings intentionally encourage regional gatherings focused on the common interests and development needs of members in a specific region—whether a continent, country, geographical area, or cultural region.

The meeting format is fully flexible: an open meeting, seminar, exhibition, show, or workshop aligned with Cumulus’s core mission. Events provide opportunities to share and discuss challenges, envision solutions, and serve local/regional contexts at times ideal for the host. Hosts can be individual Cumulus members or collaborative groups of member institutions.

The theme of a Cumulus Regional Meeting should be related to the Cumulus Design Declaration, connecting with the aims and values Cumulus represents. Events may be fully or partially hybrid. Participants are primarily Cumulus members, though regional ecosystem stakeholders may also be invited. If offered online with open access to all Cumulus members, the language must be English. Hosts are encouraged to invite a Cumulus Executive Board member to enrich the event content.

## Regional Meetings and the Cumulus Design Declaration

Cumulus Regional Meetings are designed to share the contents, implement the discussion and work on the translation of the Cumulus Design Declaration into different languages, bringing together members who share linguistic and cultural contexts. This translation work adopts a post-colonial approach, uniting countries and places through shared languages and cultural affinities (for example, bringing together all Spanish-speaking or Portuguese-speaking regions around the globe) to facilitate rich dialogue about how the Declaration's principles resonate in different contexts.

Meaningful translation requires more than linguistic conversion—it demands cultural interpretation, local contextualization, and respect for diverse ways of understanding design's role in society. Regional Meetings create opportunities for deep dialogue around the Declaration's themes related to design's role in addressing contemporary challenges: planet-centered development, sustainability, togetherness, plurality, and changing technologies.

The Declaration, developed through an unprecedented participatory co-design process involving our entire global community, is a living document that reflects diverse cultural perspectives while maintaining our commitment to universal principles. Regional Meetings focused on this translation work contribute to the ongoing conversation about what we value and aspire to achieve through design education.

### → How to Apply to Host a Cumulus Regional Meeting?

For more information or to submit your proposal, please email:  
[contact@cumulusassociation.org](mailto:contact@cumulusassociation.org)

### Submission Process

Invitation submissions are open year-round. **The bid is binding and should be submitted to:** [contact@cumulusassociation.org](mailto:contact@cumulusassociation.org)

### Required Information:

- A /** Brief introduction to the Cumulus Regional Meeting: time, format, theme, aim, expected outcomes, speakers, etc. (maximum 2000 words);

- B /** Organizer information: hosting university/institution; organizing team members with names, emails, and phone numbers;
- C /** Information on any partners and sponsors;
- D /** Description of the estimated outcomes and impact of the Cumulus Regional Meeting.

## **Additional Requirements:**

- 1 /** Cumulus Regional Meeting Identity: Each meeting operates under the Cumulus umbrella and carries Cumulus visibility (logo, etc.). Event websites must link to <https://cumulusassociation.org/>. The host will receive visual identity materials from the secretariat. Naming example: “Cumulus Regional Meeting China.”
- 2 /** The host will share event information and visual materials with the Cumulus secretariat by a deadline agreed upon with the secretariat for promotion through Cumulus media channels.
- 3 /** During or immediately after the event, the host will send photographs and visual materials to the secretariat with a brief summary of achievements for further sharing.
- 4 /** The host will deliver a written summary report in English within 3 weeks after the event, describing how the meeting went and any expected future outcomes. This report serves both to inform continuous improvement and to share insights with the community.
- 5 /** The host will share with the Cumulus secretariat the list of participants with their contact information (email, etc.).
- 6 /** The Cumulus Executive Board will confirm the host at its next meeting after the application is received.
- 7 /** Budget: There is no financial support available for Cumulus Regional Meetings from Cumulus Association. Hosts are responsible for securing necessary funding.
- 8 /** The bid is binding.