

Rome, January 13, 2025

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

Dear General Secretary Eija Salmi, dear Cumulus members,

I am writing this letter of endorsement in my capacity of Dean of the Faculty of Architecture of Sapienza University of Rome and I am delighted to write this letter of support for Prof. Lorenzo Imbesi's candidacy for re-election as President of Cumulus Association for the years 2025-2028.

Lorenzo Imbesi is Full Professor of Design at Sapienza University of Rome and currently serves as President of Cumulus Association (2022-2025). He is also the Chair of the PhD in Service Design for Public Sector, the President of the Italian Society of Design SID and has been serving as Director of Sapienza Design Research and Chair of the International Relations Board for the Faculty of Architecture.

Prof. Imbesi is an established scholar with connections in several international networks associated with his field.

I strongly believe that Prof. Imbesi has demonstrated the leadership and human qualities necessary for strategically steering and globally representing a large international Association as Cumulus, as evidenced by his successful presidency in the current mandate.

I can witness that Prof. Imbesi is a strong academic scholar and a senior dedicated leader gifted of strong ethic values.

Along the years, he tirelessly worked to develop international connections to bolster the Design Programs at Sapienza through a number of initiatives, international conferences, research networks. Just to mention one among the many projects, he organized and co-chaired the Cumulus 2021 conference on "Design Cultures", which can be considered one of the largest international conferences at Sapienza and a very successful scholarly design event.

Along his two term of service in a row for the Cumulus Executive Board and his current role as President, I can state that he has actively worked for Sapienza University to be present in a number of Cumulus initiatives, also Co-Chairing the Design Research Working Group, but also starting a number of initiatives such as the Cumulus PhD Network, the Cumulus Regional Seminars, the Cumulus Talent Camps and many other together with the current Executive Board. Throughout his presidency, he has also dedicated himself to strengthening and enhancing Cumulus's established programs and activities, ensuring their continued growth and relevance.

I strongly believe that the continued presence of Sapienza University of Rome in the leadership of the Association will provide an opportunity for further bolstering and integrating globally the different design cultures. At the same time, I am confident that Prof. Imbesi is a dedicated academic leader who will volunteer his talent and expertise only in the public interest of the Cumulus community, to remain true to its mission and to advance the role of art and design education and research globally.



This letter comes to guarantee that Prof. Lorenzo Imbesi will be able to continue his duties and commitments as President of the Association, while taking part in the Board Meetings and General Assembly activities, and that travel expenses will be covered by our institution. Sapienza University of Rome is fully supporting Prof. Imbesi to serve Cumulus as President if re-elected, receiving the required institutional and economical support of our institution to any necessary activity.

I am confident that his leadership expertise and international networking will continue to prove to be a valuable asset for the overall Cumulus global design community.

Sincerely,

Prof. Orazio Carpenzano

