

February 24, 2025

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

I am writing to express my keen interest in serving on Cumulus's board. I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to leverage my skills, passion, and experience to further the organization's mission, and I look forward to actively contributing to its ongoing success.

I have been actively committed to Cumulus and its mission since attending my first conference in Paris in 2018. This evolved into chairing the Detroit conference in 2022 and volunteering with the X-Files since 2013 (now Global X). My candidacy is grounded in my unwavering commitment to the association's international advocacy for the positive impact designers and artists can have in building a better world. This mission resonates with me, particularly the organization's values, which are reflected through its dynamic global volunteer network, of which I am proud to be a part.

Throughout my professional and personal life, I have lived and worked in Europe, Asia, and the United States. These experiences have fostered a deep sensitivity to cultural and individual differences and the capacity to build bridges in diverse environments. With an agile mindset, the ability to identify emerging trends, and the skill to translate constituent needs into actionable educational solutions, I am confident I can help guide Cumulus toward an even more impactful future.

In an era where new walls are constantly emerging, my mission, if elected, is to strengthen Cumulus's objectives by nurturing collaboration and inclusiveness across all sectors. I would focus on redefining sustainability, not as a series of isolated goals, but through a systems-thinking approach that considers the interconnectedness of our challenges and solutions.

I would also focus our attention on the next generation of students, who are facing unprecedented pressures. From environmental challenges to health issues, the burden of conflict, and the rapid pace of technological change, students need our support to navigate these stresses and thrive in an ever-evolving world.

By leveraging my international higher education background and experience in teaching, programming, practice, art, and design, I believe this unique combination will enable me to make meaningful contributions to the board.

I am genuinely thrilled about the possible opportunity to discuss my qualifications further and explore how I can work with the board to continue making a positive impact with Cumulus.

Thank you for reviewing my application.

I look forward to the possibility of joining your exceptional team.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Maria Luisa Rossi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Maria" and last name "Rossi" clearly legible.

MARIA LUISA ROSSI  
*Professor Emerita*