Michał Stefanowski Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw Candidate for Cumulus Executive Board VIII 2025-2028 07.02.2025

Motivation letter

The Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, which I represent, for over 20 years is a Member of Cumulus Association - friendly, progressive and professional community. We benefit of many contacts, exchanges and joint activities with other Members from various countries. We have learned a lot and I believe that we also managed to give something to others. One of the opportunities was Cumulus conference in Warsaw, co-organized in the past by myself. The mosaic of local experiences and opinions of Cumulus Members from various countries and continents enriches our Association. The global situation is rapidly changing. This is why there is a necessity of discussion how Cumulus can serve its Members in the best way and how it can react to the challenges inside and outside the Association. For many years, Cumulus has been strong and attractive, because of the variety and high quality of its Members, and also thanks to the transparence of decisions, trust and democratic management. The hard work of last term President and Cumulus Executive Board in cooperation with Secretariat was based on these values and I believe, this approach will be continued in the period 2025-2028. As educators and as human beings, we have to face various crises. Destruction of environment, migrations, wars, overproduction, poverty are some of them.

Our Association is a Community. It has been successful for so many years and attractive for so many Members, because of opportunity of establishing personal contacts, cooperation and exchange of knowledge, but also because of its values and trust. I do believe that the new Executive Board should work for Members and together with Members. It should be effective, but also should build its activities on mutual consent.

I teach design for many years. I am the Head of Department of Design at the Faculty of Design / Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw and I am full professor. My experience includes running various international academic projects and workshops, attending numerous international conferences as a speaker or chair, contributing to many publications and judging many national and international competitions. I run the Social Design course at Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, cooperating with various NGO's from Poland and other countries. I do believe, that this is area, where designers and design educators have a lot to do.

I am also a practicing designer, working with my collaborators on numerous projects in our INNO Projekt design studio.

I was the President of the Association of Industrial Designers in Poland (SPFP) for 9 years, participating in the organization of design community and development of position of design in my country and also serving as adviser to governmental bodies. Later, I was elected the Board Member of BEDA (Bureau of European Design Associations) for 6 years. With my colleagues from BEDA Board, I worked on the agreement between BEDA and Cumulus, which was signed in 2012 by the Presidents of both organizations. The connection of the two disciplines, academic and professional, is the area, where I feel competent. I would be glad to work on strengthening of the cooperation between academic and professional organizations.

I was member of various teams in the past and I do believe in team working.

I am involved in Cumulus activities for many years. I believe, that I know and understand the Organization's and its Members' needs. I have broad educational and professional experience, both national and international, and I still have will and energy, which I would like to devote to the Cumulus Association.

M. Stefath