



Aalto University
School of Arts, Design
and Architecture

20.2.2025

Letter of Recommendation

Endorsement of Prof. Philipp Heidkamp for the Cumulus Executive Board 2025-28

Dear President and Cumulus Executive Board,

I want to express my strong support for the re-election of Prof. Philipp Heidkamp to the Cumulus Executive Board 2025-28.

Since 2019, I have had the pleasure of getting to know and working alongside Philipp Heidkamp and have consistently been impressed by his passion, visionary leadership and dedication to advancing design education internationally.

Philipp Heidkamp possesses an extensive international network and has been instrumental in developing innovative international study programs. Amongst others, his experience at TH Köln includes serving as Dean for 12 years, being elected Head of the MA Integrated Design Research program, and he currently holds the position of Vice Dean for Internationalization. These reflect his commitment to fostering global academic collaboration.

From 2019 to 2022, Philipp Heidkamp served as Vice President of Cumulus. In the last year of his Vice Presidency, he made significant contributions to the transformation of Cumulus into an independent association. His integrative and balanced approach ensured active member engagement throughout this transition phase always having the values and future opportunities of Cumulus in mind. I was impressed by his efficacy and integrity serving our association. Philipp played a vital role as a partner in the negotiations for Aalto during this period, the former home of Cumulus for 30 years.

Since 2022, Philipp Heidkamp took the responsibility of being a board advisor where he expanded the association's global outreach, worked with members of the current Executive Board and supported the association by his work with the Leadership and Strategy Working Group. His initiatives, from developing online formats during the pandemic to broadening the group's profile and member engagement, have been crucial for attracting new university leaders to Cumulus.

Being deeply familiar with Cumulus, its structure, and its history, I am certain that Philipp's experience, foresight, and ethical leadership will greatly benefit the association over the next three years. His open-minded and dynamic approach is essential in navigating the complex landscape of global design education in times where we all are facing new and unexpected challenges.

It is with great enthusiasm that I recommend Prof. Philipp Heidkamp for re-election to the Executive Board, confident that his leadership will guide Cumulus towards sustained excellence and innovation.

Sincerely,

Tuomas Auvinen
Dean, Aalto ARTS