

Konstfack

University College of
Arts, Crafts and Design

Dear Secretary General, dear president and Cumulus Executive Board,

On behalf of Konstfack University of Arts, Crafts and Design I wish to communicate our strong support for Professor Philipp Heidkamp as member of the Executive Board of Cumulus.

The design field spans over diverse professional practices and is also constantly evolving in response to new societal, environmental, economic, or technological conditions. In an uncertain world facing complex challenges at a local and planetary scale, networks for design, design education and design research are crucial to stay relevant as a profession, to serve societies and inclusively form the future. Philipp Heidkamp's experiences in strategic, organizational and advisory positions related to the field of design education together with his international experience and outlook which extends beyond Europe makes him a great candidate for a leading role in Cumulus.

Through the MeDES program, a five-year joint program involving seven leading European design schools, my colleagues and I have had the privilege to work closely with Prof. Heidkamp during many years. Within this partnership and community, a capacity to understand intercultural exchange, negotiation and diplomacy is important. Philipp Heidkamp has many times shown to have these capacities as well as an openness and drive to envision and explore future potentials. He is a leader that invites others in visionary and long-term strategic thinking, at the same time he can also be pragmatic and attentive to details, ensuring quality to processes and outcome. During the Covid pandemic when our different design universities had challenges to ensure that our students could still be engaged in international knowledge exchange, Philipp Heidkamp showed agility and openness to new ways of collaborating in a very productive manner.

With the diverse professional experiences, the strong leadership skills, the broad and holistic understanding of design we see Philipp Heidkamp as a very qualified and respected potential candidate for the Cumulus Executive Board.

Sincerely,

Jenny Althoff
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