

12 February 2025

Letter of recommendation and support for Prof. Philipp Heidkamp

Dear CUMULUS Secretariat and member community, Dear CUMULUS general Assembly

I am Tadanori Nagasawa, the Executive Chairman of the Board of Trustees, former President and Professor Emeritus of Musashino Art University in Japan. I, on behalf of Musashino Art University, I am writing to express my support for the re-election of Prof. Philipp Heidkamp as a member of the CUMULUS Executive Board for the term of 2025-2028 in this letter.

MusashinoArt University has been a member of the CUMULUS ASSOCIATION since 2019, and as a member of the CUMULUS ASSOCIATION, I worked as jury member for the CUMULUS GREEN 2024 competition.

I have known Prof. Philipp Heidkamp for more than twenty years. We have worked and taught together on many occasions. And he has been invited many times by the other institutions and international organizations in Japan as a visiting professor at Musashino Art University or a jury member for competitions as a keynote speaker at design conventions.

In particular in 2014, we founded a unique collaboration of universities and institutes called "Global Design Faculty" and since 2015, we have been running the "Global Design Initiative Workshop" annually which was presented in a session led by Prof. Philipp Heidkamp at the General Assembly of CUMULUS in Rovaniemi Finland in 2019. Many member schools have expressed their interest in joining this unique collaboration.

For this strategic project, he took an initiative to coordinate five member schools for it, Central Saint Martins/UAL(UK), Lasalle College of the Arts/UAS(Singapore), Shih Chien University(Taiwan), Köln International School of Design(Germany) and Musashino Art University(Japan) in 2014.

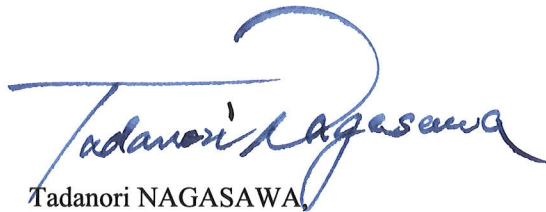
In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the advancement of global design education, he was awarded The Fellow of Musashino Art University (FMAU) in 2017.

I strongly support Prof. Philipp Heidkamp as the next board member of the CUMULUS ASSOCIATION again for 2025–2028.

During his last term of 2019-2022, he was a member the board and also Vice President of CUMULUS when Prof. Mariana Amatullo was the president of CUMULUS.

He had led the CUMULUS Executive Board together with Prof. Mariana Amatullo and setting up and coordinating several important session groups, as he had achieved great success in global outreach and inclusion (from his Leadership & Strategy working group to the Cumulus Connects platform), but it was a period of COVID-19.

I believe that many of you know that his trustworthy and supportive attitude and friendly personality including his global experience in the field of higher education are highly valued leadership very much for CUMULUS members, so that I am confident in re-confirming him as a board member of CUMULUS to once again guide our activities, especially in the era of VUCA.



Tadanori NAGASAWA

Professor Emeritus, Musashino Art University

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