

Madame Frédérique PAIN
Director, ENSCI-Les Ateliers, Paris
Member of Cumulus Association

Paris, 26th February 2025

To the Board and Members of Cumulus Association

I am honored to write this letter in strong support of Sandrine Lebas' candidacy for the Cumulus Association Board. As Director of ENSCI-Les Ateliers in Paris and an advocate for excellence in design education, I have witnessed firsthand the impact of visionary leadership in shaping the future of our field. Sandrine is not only an ENSCI alumna (circa 1996, with honors) and successful designer, but precisely the kind of leader who brings innovation, strategic thinking, and a deep commitment to advancing design education on a global scale.

With over a decade of leadership in higher education, Sandrine has held pivotal academic positions that have influenced institutions and curricula, in building the next generation of global designers. As the current Academic Director at Besign-The Sustainable Design School, she is shaping the evolution of both Bachelor's and Master's programs, ensuring alignment with sustainability principles and the evolving roles and responsibilities of the field. Her international perspective and ability to navigate the intersections of education, industry, and research makes her uniquely qualified to contribute to the strategic direction of Cumulus.

Previously, as Chair of Industrial Design at California College of the Arts, Sandrine led a faculty of over sixty educators and guided a large student body in one of the most competitive and interdisciplinary design programs in the U.S. Under her leadership and curriculum development, the program strengthened its industry connections, integrating collaborative projects with global and renowned brands, preparing students for real-world challenges.

Sandrine is also a dedicated educator who has directly shaped student learning through her teaching of professional practice seminars, design studios and interdisciplinary courses. She has served on multiple faculty searches and curriculum committees, demonstrating her ongoing commitment to academic excellence and institutional growth.

Beyond her academic roles, Sandrine has an extensive background as a design practitioner, with leadership positions at Lunar San Francisco and collaborations with Philippe Starck.

Sandrine's ability to bridge the worlds of academia and industry, her strategic leadership in curriculum innovation, and her unwavering dedication to student success make her an outstanding candidate for the Cumulus Board. Her ability to navigate the intersections of education, industry, and research makes her uniquely qualified to contribute to the strategic direction of Cumulus.

I strongly encourage the board to consider her candidacy with the highest regard. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further information.

Sincerely,



Frédérique Pain
Director, ENSCI-Les Ateliers
Cumulus Association Member

48, RUE SAINT-SABIN
75011 PARIS
T: +33(0)149 23 12 12
WWW.ENSCI.COM