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To
Cumulus International Association
of Universities and Colleges of Art, Design and Media
Secretary General Eija Salmi
PO Box 31000, 00076
Aalto Finland

Subject: Letter of endorsement for Mrs Maria Luisa Rossi as The Board Member for tenure 2025 - 2028

Respected General Assembly, Cumulus Members of the Board and distinguished Secretary General Eija Salmi,

I, Vatsal Agrawal, Director - International Affairs at The Design Village in India, on behalf of my institution, write this letter in support of Mrs Maria Luisa Rossi, endorsing her as the next board member for the upcoming candidacy tenure of 2025 - 2028.

The Design Village has been a full member of Cumulus Association since 2019 and is an active participant in most of the conferences held by the association hence. We have been associated with Mrs Maria Luisa Rossi since the Antwerp Conference in April 2023.

Maria Luisa is a visionary par excellence - not only is she an illustrious multidisciplinary designer but also has redefined global education through her radical work in the city of Detroit, where design education, 15 years ago, was unheard of. Her exemplary work as the Chair of Graduate Studies at the College for Creative Studies [CCS], Detroit was instrumental in reviving the city of Henry Ford as the focus of a new age of inclusive designers and for the city to function as an emerging metropolis through her role as an advisor to Detroit City of Design Research Lab. Her foray into Asian schools for building cross cultural relationships and facilitating unique student mobilisation programmes has been encouraging and reassuring for new design schools from Global South to emerge in a transoceanic dialogue.

Since last year, Maria Luisa, in the capacity of Professor and Chair Emerita at CCS continues her mission to bringing different nationalities together to discuss the imperative issue of globalisation and the limitations it is faced with due to the ongoing environmental catastrophes, geo political disruptions and unaccounted migrations.



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This work will be furthered with great responsibility by Maria Luisa, as she assumes her position as one of the eminent members of the New Board of Cumulus, in effect from the upcoming General Assembly at L'Ecole de Design Nantes Atlantique Cumulus Conference in June 2025.

Last year, Maria Luisa nominated me as one of the members of the Cumulus Working Groups - Global X - International Affairs, and together we have been working on identifying pluriversal pedagogies that need to be brought to the fore to bring a shift in design education of multiversal tomorrow. She is a dynamic, agile, committed and empathetic leader and a mentor.

I sincerely request the executive committee and board members to accept Mrs Rossi's candidature as the new board member and facilitate the invaluable work she has been carrying on to bring the disjointed missions of the world together through the DNA of Cumulus.

Sincerely,
Vatsal Agrawal
Director - International Affairs

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