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March 2, 2025

Recommendation for Dr. Teresa Franqueira's Re-Election to the Cumulus Executive Board

Dear Esteemed Members of the Cumulus,

It is with great enthusiasm that I write to endorse Dr. Teresa Franqueira, Associate Professor at the University of Aveiro, Founder and Senior Researcher of the ID+ DESIS Lab, and valued member of the Cumulus Executive Board (2022–2025), for a second term in this vital leadership role. As Vice President of Tongji University and a former Vice President of Cumulus myself, I have closely followed Teresa's contributions to our global network and firmly believe her continued leadership will further empower Cumulus's mission to advance design education and social innovation.

Over her current term, Teresa has exemplified visionary leadership by bridging academic rigor with actionable social impact. Her work through the ID+ DESIS Lab has become a beacon for design-driven social innovation, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and empowering communities to address pressing challenges such as sustainability, equity, and cultural resilience. Teresa's ability to translate theoretical frameworks into tangible projects—particularly those aligning with the UN Sustainable Development Goals—has set a benchmark for how design institutions can serve as catalysts for meaningful change.



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Within the Cumulus Executive Board, Teresa has been a proactive and unifying force. She has championed initiatives to strengthen Global South perspectives in design discourse, advocated for inclusive pedagogies, and facilitated partnerships between institutions to amplify collective impact. Her dedication to nurturing emerging design educators and practitioners reflects her deep commitment to the future of our field through coordinating platforms such as DESIS Network. Notably, her role in organizing Cumulus events and working groups has enriched our shared knowledge base while fostering a spirit of transnational solidarity.

Teresa's reelection promises continuity and evolution. Her dual expertise as a scholar-practitioner, coupled with her unwavering ethical focus, positions her to guide Cumulus through an era marked by complex global challenges. She understands that design education must not only adapt to technological and ecological shifts but also actively shape equitable futures. Her collaborative ethos and ability to inspire diverse stakeholders will be invaluable as Cumulus expands its influence.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly recommend Dr. Teresa Franqueira for a second term on the Cumulus Executive Board. Her intellect, passion, and track record of transformative leadership make her an indispensable asset to our association. I am confident that under her continued stewardship, Cumulus will further solidify its role as a global force for design-driven social progress.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lou Yongqi'.

Prof. Dr. LOU Yongqi

Vice President, Tongji University

Past Vice President, CUMULUS

Founding Co-Editor-in-Chief, She Ji. The Journal of Design, Economics, and Innovation

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