

Cumulus Think Tank Publication Grant

ROLLING CALL FOR WORKING GROUPS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

1. Overview

The Cumulus Think Tank Publication Grant is a funding instrument made available by the Cumulus Association to support the production and dissemination of original knowledge outputs by its Working Groups, special projects, and by Cumulus member institutions, Executive Board members, and the President.

The grant builds on the established Cumulus Think Tank publication series, which has produced open-access resources exploring critical questions in art and design education and research. Existing Think Tank publications are freely available on the Cumulus website:

cumulusassociation.org/resources/miscellaneous-publications/

The call is open on a rolling basis. Proposals are reviewed by the Cumulus Executive Board at its regular meetings. Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals as early as possible to allow adequate time for review and production.

2. Important Facts

Grant amount:	Up to €5,000 per project per year, with a total annual grant budget of €10,000 for 2026
Format:	Digital (open access, hosted on cumulusassociation.org) and/or limited print edition
Eligibility:	Active Cumulus Working Groups; Cumulus member institutions; special projects (Cumulus Talent Camp, Cumulus Regional Meetings, Cumulus PhD Network, and other projects approved by the CEB); Cumulus Executive Board members and the President
Language:	English (primary); other languages may be included alongside English
ISBN:	Provided by Cumulus Association
Copyright:	Publication released under Creative Commons licence; Cumulus Association holds co-publishing credit

Deadline:	Rolling — proposals reviewed at each Executive Board meeting
Payment:	The grant is transferred upon completion and delivery of the final publication.

3. Eligible Publication Formats

The Cumulus Think Tank Publication Grant supports a range of formats, provided that the output is original, open-access, and directly related to the mission and thematic priorities of the Cumulus Association.

- Thematic research publication — A structured monograph or edited volume presenting original research, case studies, or theoretical frameworks developed within or across Cumulus member institutions.
- Knowledge resource — A curated reference tool or mapping of practices designed to support educators, researchers, and students working in a defined field.
- Digital platform or interactive publication — A web-based publication combining text, visual content, data visualisation, and case studies, hosted on or linked from the Cumulus website.
- Working Group annual report or white paper — A substantive document summarising the activity, findings, and recommendations of an active Cumulus Working Group over a defined period.

4. Eligible Budget Items

Grant funds may be used to cover the following categories of expenditure. Applicants must provide an itemised budget with justification for each line item.

- Publishing costs — fees charged by a recognised and accredited international publisher.
- Graphic design and layout — professional typesetting and visual design, including cover, internal layout, and print-ready or web-ready file preparation.
- Data mapping and visualisation — costs for data processing, infographic design, and interactive visualisation, where the publication includes quantitative or spatial data.

- Digital platform setup — website development, accessibility compliance, and content management, for web-based publications.
- Print production — a limited print edition for distribution at Cumulus events and to contributing institutions (with written justification).
- Proofreading and copyediting — professional language editing in English and other languages where applicable.
- Translation — translation of abstracts or selected sections into additional languages, where justified by the publication's scope and audience.

5. Eligibility

Applications are open to the following categories of applicant:

1/ **Active Cumulus Working Groups**

Groups formally recognised by the Cumulus Association and engaged in ongoing activity relevant to the Association's strategic priorities.

2/ **Cumulus member institutions**

Individual member schools or universities may apply for a special project grant, provided the project contributes to shared knowledge within the Cumulus community.

3/ **Special projects**

Established Cumulus programmes — including the Cumulus Talent Camp, Cumulus Regional Meetings, and the Cumulus PhD Network — may apply for publication support linked to their specific programme activities. Other special projects by the CEB are also eligible.

4/ **Collaborative projects**

Joint applications by two or more Cumulus member institutions, or between a Working Group and an external partner organisation, are eligible and encouraged.

6. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be assessed by the Executive Board on the basis of the following criteria:

1/ Relevance to the Cumulus mission

The extent to which the proposed publication addresses the strategic priorities of the Cumulus Association and contributes to the advancement of art and design education and research.

2/ Quality of the proposed publication

The scholarly, editorial, and design quality of the project, including the credibility of the team, the clarity of the content outline, and the appropriateness of the proposed format.

3/ Expected impact

The potential reach and significance of the publication within the Cumulus community and beyond, including open-access dissemination and contribution to ongoing debates in the field.

4/ Feasibility

The realism of the proposed timeline, the availability and competence of the team, and the likelihood that the publication will be completed and delivered as described.

5/ Value for money

The appropriateness and proportionality of the proposed budget in relation to the scope and expected outputs of the project.

7. Conflict of Interest Policy

The Cumulus Association is committed to transparency and the equitable management of its grant programmes. Applications submitted by Executive Board members — including the President — are fully admissible.

To ensure procedural fairness, the following conditions apply:

- The applicant must declare their Board membership or presidential role at the time of submission.
- The applicant must recuse themselves from any Board discussion and vote on their own application.

- The application will be evaluated by the remaining Board members using the same criteria applied to all other proposals.
- The declaration and recusal will be recorded in the minutes of the relevant Board meeting.

8. Benefits

- Publications are hosted permanently on the Cumulus website and promoted through all Cumulus communication channels, including the newsletter, social media, and conference materials.
- Authors and contributors are credited individually in the publication and in all associated communications.
- Print copies (where applicable) are distributed at Cumulus conferences and to contributing institutions.
- The publication becomes part of the Cumulus Think Tank series, a recognised international resource in art and design education and research.

9. How to Apply

→ Application Content

1/ Host(s)

Name of the lead Working Group, special project, or institution, and contact details of the lead applicant.

2/ Title and short introduction

Working title of the publication and a summary of its purpose and scope (max. 200 words).

3/ Thematic alignment

A brief explanation of how the publication relates to the Cumulus Design Declaration, the Association's strategic priorities, or the documented activities of the submitting group.

4/ Content outline

A structured outline of the publication (chapters, sections, or modules), with a short description of each part (max. 500 words total).

5 / Format and production plan

Proposed format (digital only / digital + print), indicative length, and a brief description of the editorial and design process.

6 / Timeline

Proposed schedule from grant approval to publication, including key milestones.

7 / Budget breakdown

An itemised budget covering all eligible expenditure categories, with justification for each line item. Total must not exceed €5,000 per project per year.

8 / Team

Names, institutional affiliations, and roles of all contributors, editors, and designers involved in the project.

9 / Conflict-of-interest declaration

If the lead applicant is a Cumulus Executive Board member or the President, a formal declaration must be included (see section 7).

10 / Any other relevant information

Supporting material, letters of endorsement from partner organisations, or evidence of previous related work (optional).

Application deadline is rolling.

Proposals are reviewed at each Executive Board meeting. The application is binding and should be submitted to: contact@cumulusassociation.org

10. Questions

Any questions should be directed to the Cumulus Secretariat at contact@cumulusassociation.org. Check our website at cumulusassociation.org.