

Thank you, Professor Grande.

And thank you to the University of Coimbra for hosting this remarkable event and for bringing us together in celebration of science, education, and the arts.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to the World Cultural Council for their dedication and recognition of the critical contributions made by scientists, educators, and artists to humanity. And for their firm belief that each advancement stands to make a difference for both people and places the world over and for future generations who will inherit the world we build today.

One of the most important lessons we have learned — not only as scientists, educators, and artists, but as global citizens, as humans — is that the world's greatest challenges cannot be solved through purely technical solutions. Rather, the challenges of our time call for a deeply human response born of creative intelligence, imagination, and collective action.

Art and design have always been, and always will be deeply human endeavors, generating new knowledge and innovation from new lines of inquiry and points of intersection we discover together as we imagine and build a better, more sustainable, just, and equitable world.

Along these lines, I would like to thank all my colleagues and mentors who continue to inspire and support the values and priorities we share. I'd like to thank provost Mike Kotlikoff and Cornell University, my alma mater, and our intellectual community that commits every day to making change and preparing the next generation of creative practitioners to build an ever-better world.

I would also like to thank all my colleagues at Höweler + Yoon Architecture, past and present, without whom this body of work would not be possible.

Last but not least, I'd like to thank my family (my mother who is here today) and my partner in practice and in life, Eric Höweler and our daughter Kaya Höweler, who are my constant — my north star.

American painter Robert Rauschenberg, the second person to ever receive the Leonardo da Vinci World Award of Arts shared, "This award is not to recognize my past, but I accept it to promise you a hopeful future."

It is a true honor to join a long line of artists, architects, writers, musicians, and others who share a belief in the power of creativity and imagination, and the potential for art in all its forms to inspire and build a better world now — and with the promise of a hopeful future.

Thank you.