Socially Engaged Art

AUTISM THROUGH TALENT

An institution-ready, museum-quality public exhibition designed for national scale through strategic philanthropic and institutional partnerships.



Evoautism Foundation New York

THE PROBLEM

The world talks about autism.
But autistic people are still rarely heard.

RISING PREVALENCE



1 IN 31

U.S. children are identified with autism.

Source: CDC, 2024

GROWING PUBLIC ATTENTION



7.5M

U.S.public school students receive special education services under IDEA.

Source: NCES 2024

INSTITUTIONAL MOMENTUM



80%

of cultural leaders say diversity, accessibility, and inclusion are a top priority for their institution.

Source: AAM, 2023

WHAT IS MISSING

Autistic people still face misunderstandin g, exclusion and stereotyping despite growing awareness.

HOW WE CHANGE PERCEPTION

Exhibition combines powerful portrait photography with authentic life stories, developed in collaboration with autistic people and their families.

Through photography and personal stories, visitors discover the diversity of autistic lives and experiences.

It creates a space for reflection on neurodiversity, identity, and what it means to see the person before the diagnosis.



OUR IMPACT IN ACTION

1. What is visible becomes **discussable**
2. What is discussed becomes **understood**
3. What is understood becomes **supported**

WHEN PEOPLE SEE REAL STORIES, UNDERSTANDING TURNS INTO EMPATHY, AND EMPATHY TURNS INTO CHANGE.



AUTISM THROUGH TALENT
STORIES OF POTENTIAL, RECOGNITION AND FUTURE

EVOAUTISM

HOW WE DOCUMENT IMPACT

1. Visitors **read**
2. Visitors **reflect and respond**
3. We measure **learning**

REFLECTION WALLS

VISITOR FEEDBACK



WE LOOK AT MORE THEN ATTENDANCE TO UNDERSTAND WHAT CHANGES.

BUILD ON PROVEN APPROACHES

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

Our Neurodivergent Experience

Visitors reported feeling **seen** and **understood.**

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

My Neurodivergent Identity

Reflection spaces sparked **meaningful conversations** about identity and belonging.

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY

Photovoice Exhibition

Photovoice used as a **participatory research** method to amplify lived experience.



PREVIOUS EXHIBITIONS → **IMPACT.**
OUR PILOT → A **REPEATABLE** MODEL THAT MUSEUMS, UNIVERSITIES, AND COMMUNITIES CAN **ADOPT**.

Before we continue...

THE COST OF STEREOTYPES

"Negative stereotypes contribute to dehumanisation of autistic people and being used to justify prejudice and discrimination."

Treweek et al., 2019.



INSPIRATION ACROSS GENERATIONS

WHY SHOW THIS?

Stereotypes disappear only when the achievements of people with ASD become visible. Real-life examples around the city rid society of fears and change people's mindsets.

WHERE SHOULD THIS BE?

Where life is buzzing: on interactive displays in parks, in airport and station waiting areas, on city streets, and in shopping malls.



WHAT THE HOST RECEIVES

A complete, adaptable exhibition package ready
for installation and public engagement.

1. **STORIES**

10–20 autistic life stories with museum-quality portraits, approved text, participant consent, and usage rights.

2. **EXHIBITION**

Print-ready panels, informational materials, and an installation layout.

3. **ENGAGEMENT**

An interactive visitor feedback wall and printed handout materials.

EvoAutism develops and coordinates the exhibition package, reducing the operational burden on the host.

EVOAUTISM

IT STARTED WITH A PROMISE

Iuliia and her son are **both** on the autism spectrum.

There was a time when his challenges seemed overwhelming and the road ahead felt unclear. But over time, with support, understanding, and relentless work, he grew stronger than we ever imagined.

That experience changed the way I see autism, potential, and what becomes possible when strengths are recognized instead of overlooked.

> I promised my son that if we found a way forward, I would help other children find one too.

This promise became Evoautism Foundation.

Believe in someone before they believe in themselves.



TRUSTED BY LEADERS ACROSS THE AUTISM COMMUNITY

Autism Through Talent is actively supported by respected organizations and leaders across the autism community who recognize the value of our mission. They contribute expert feedback, sector insights, strategic introductions, and opportunities for collaboration—helping us strengthen the initiative and expand its potential impact.

ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING OUR MISSION

NYU

Child Mind Institute

ASA Autism Society of America

QSAC Quality Services for the Autism Community

World Psychiatric Association

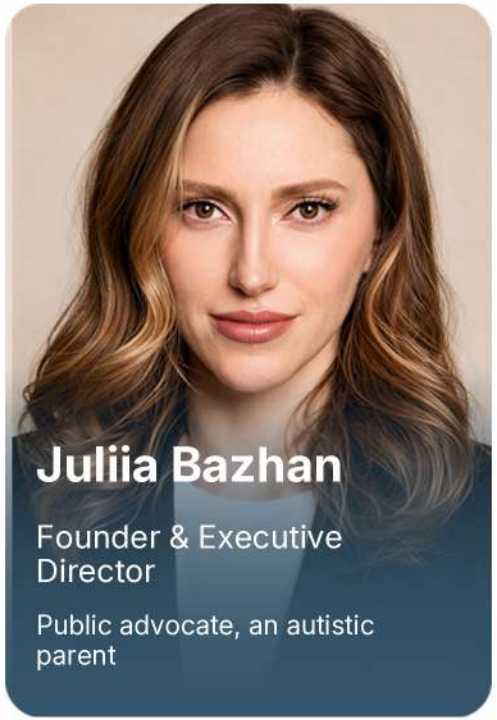
Exploring The Spectrum

future CENTERED

ASAN Autistic Self Advocacy Network

naked heart foundation

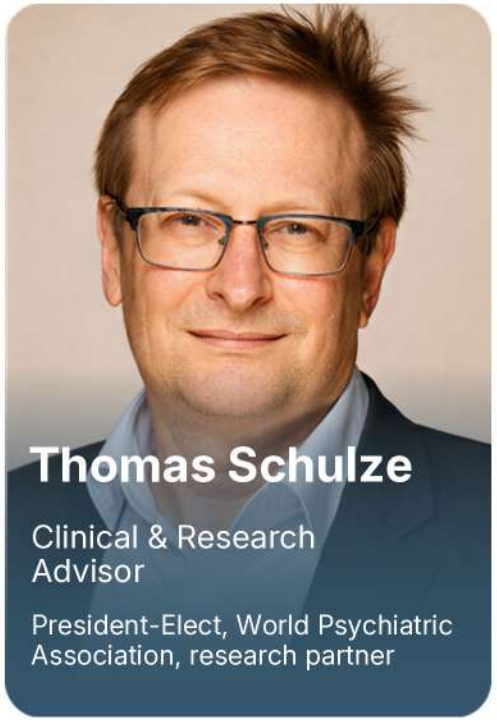
Indiana AUTISM Alliance



Juliia Bazhan

Founder & Executive Director

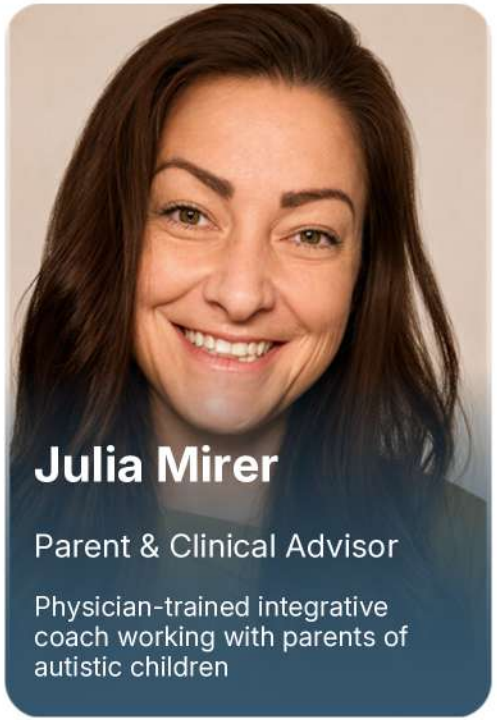
Public advocate, an autistic parent



Thomas Schulze

Clinical & Research Advisor

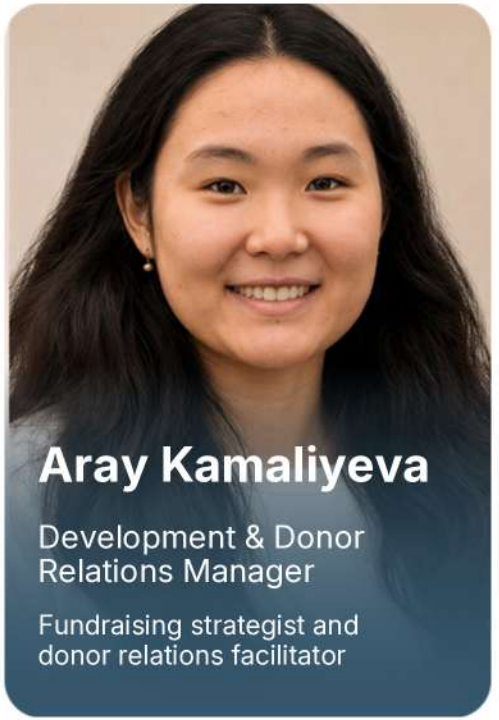
President-Elect, World Psychiatric Association, research partner



Julia Mirer

Parent & Clinical Advisor

Physician-trained integrative coach working with parents of autistic children



Aray Kamaliyeva

Development & Donor Relations Manager

Fundraising strategist and donor relations facilitator



Gulnaz Shumskaya

Exhibitions & Public Programs Lead

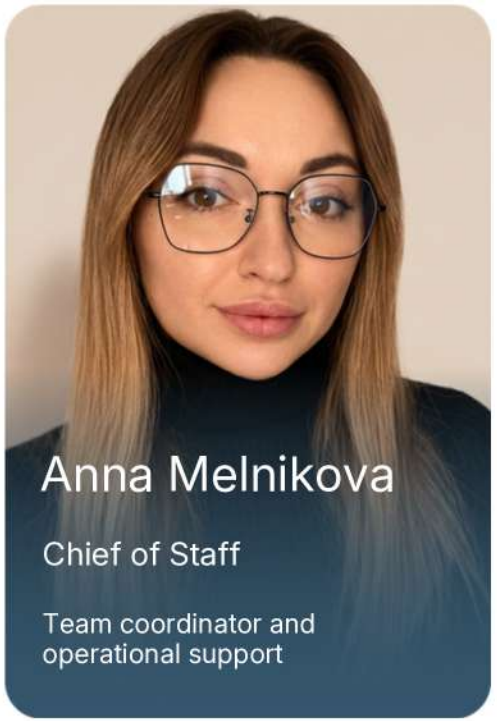
Public exhibitions and storytelling narratives in museums



Hama Shikov

Health & Performance Programs Lead

Parent resources and wellness programs initiator



Anna Melnikova

Chief of Staff

Team coordinator and operational support



Juliia Fandeeva

Strategic Partnerships & Communications Lead

Corporate outreach and collaborations