

# Bird Sellergren

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## Education

**PhD, Education** | University of California, Berkeley | 2025–2030

**EdD, Educational Leadership** | San Francisco State University | 2024–2027

**M.A., Anthropology** | San Francisco State University | 2021–2024

*Thesis: Neurodiversity, Equity, Inclusion: Autism, Employment, & Organizational Change*

**B.A., Landscape Architecture** | University of California, Berkeley | 2014–2017

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## Professional Experience

**Founder & Executive Director, Bay Area Autism Collective (BAAC)** | San Francisco, CA | June 2023–Present

- Founded and lead nonprofit organization dedicated to building autism-affirming community through peer support groups
- Facilitate 5-6 peer support groups monthly serving autistic adults across the Bay Area
- Oversee organizational operations, program development, fundraising, volunteer coordination, and community partnerships
- Launched specialized affinity groups including trans/nonbinary autistic adults, creative autistics, and regional groups throughout the Bay Area
- Authored *Facilitating Autistic Peer Support Groups in Principle and Practice* (Jessica Kingsley Publishers, forthcoming 2025), documenting evidence-based methods for autism-affirming group facilitation developed through BAAC
- Featured in major media outlets (ABC News, CNN, Fox 2, Press Democrat) for innovative community-building work

**Founder & Principal, Neurodiversity Labs** | San Francisco, CA | January 2022–Present

- Provide autism-affirming coaching, consulting, and educational services grounded in the neurodiversity paradigm

- Coach autistic adults (specializing in late-diagnosed individuals) on executive functioning, relationships, career navigation, burnout management, and independent living
- Support families seeking to better understand and support autistic loved ones
- Deliver keynote presentations and workshops on neurodiversity, inclusive practices, and organizational change for corporations, educational institutions, and government agencies
- Consult with organizations on neurodiversity inclusion, accessibility, and autism-affirming practices
- Approach integrates neurodiversity paradigm, feminist disability studies, decolonial frameworks, and intersectionality

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## Research Interests

Autistic epistemologies | Neurodiversity paradigm | Participatory research with autism communities | Critical autism studies | Ethics in autism research | Disability accessibility | Intersectionality | Black feminism | Decoloniality | Organizational change and inclusive practices

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## Trainings, Workshops & Consulting

- **September 2024** – Workshop: "Building Neurodiverse Teams," U.S. General Services Administration, Technology Transformation Services (TTS) Diversity Guild (commissioned training)
- **Fall 2024** – Disability Accessibility Training & Consulting, Ever After, Portland, OR (alcohol-free event space and bar)

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## Publications

### Books

Sellergren, B. (Forthcoming 2025). *Facilitating Autistic Peer Support Groups in Principle and Practice: Creating Autism-Affirming Spaces to Build Support and Connections*. London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers.

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## Presentations & Conferences

- **October 25, 2025** – Panelist & Presenter: "Autism Communities & Research Dialogue (ACORD)," Kavli Center for Ethics, Science, and the Public, UC Berkeley
- **May 5, 2024** – "Compassionate Pedagogy for Neurodivergence: Celebrating Difference & Promoting Equal Opportunities in Higher Education," Communication, Behavior and Instructional Supports: Autism, San Francisco State University
- **May 5, 2023** – "Compassionate Pedagogy for Neurodivergence: Celebrating Difference & Promoting Equal Opportunities in Higher Education," Scholars Strategy Network
- **2023** – Lecture: "Functioning Labels: Why We Don't Use Them & Better Alternatives," Introduction to Feminist Disability Studies, San Francisco State University
- **2022** – Lecture: "Anthropological Approaches to the Other," Problems in Cultural Anthropology, San Francisco State University
- **April 7, 2022** – "Transautistic: Vulnerabilities at the Intersection of Identities," Brown Bag Research Series, Longmore Institute on Disability
- **2021** – "Assigned 'Other': The TransAutistic Intersection," Seminar on Intersectionality, San Francisco State University

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## Media Appearances

- **November 27, 2024** – Guest, *Neuro Revolution Podcast*, Season 1, Episode 2: "Boundaries, Burnout, and Belonging: An Autistic Entrepreneur's Journey with Bird Sellergren"
- **May 9, 2024** – Interview, CNN: "Adult Autism Diagnosis"
- **April 30, 2024** – Featured, ABC News: "Autism Advocate Bird Sellergren's Nonprofit Bay Area Collective Creates Autism-Affirming Community Spaces"
- **April 26, 2024** – Interview, *Press Democrat*: "North Bay Support Groups Autism"
- **April 16, 2024** – Featured, Fox Channel 2 [Link to Video]
- **March 31, 2023** – Guest, *Pushing Limits*, KPFA Berkeley
- **February 26, 2023** – Guest, *That's Bad News, Muse!* Episode 12, Spotify

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## Fellowships & Awards

**Chancellor's Fellowship for Graduate Study | UC Berkeley School of Education | 2025–2026**

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## Selected Art Exhibitions

- **2023** – Group Exhibition: *The Art of Disability Culture*, Ruth's Table, San Francisco, CA
- **2020** – Solo Exhibition: *Authors*, Dog Eared Books, Castro, San Francisco, CA  
(scheduled and canceled due to COVID)
- **2004** – Group Exhibition: *Evolution*, Black Orchid Gallery, Savannah, GA
- **2002** – Group Exhibition: *L'Art Pour L'Art*, Gallery TUDIBOO, Charlotte, NC