

# Our Community Use Initiative Receives Some Positive Exposure

## *“What’s your thing?”*

It’s a question Daniel Moreno DeLuca would ask people visiting the Precision Medicine in Autism (Prisma) Lab to get them to relax.

“It’s not always easy to connect with individuals who may be shy or less engaged,” Moreno DeLuca, Prisma’s Director and the CASA Mental Health Research Chair at the University of Alberta, explains, “but discovering someone’s passion—whether it’s astronomy, dinosaurs, or guitars—opens a window into their world, allowing for richer connection. By focusing on personal interests rather than diagnoses, we can anchor our conversations on strengths and have a little fun.”

The more “What’s your thing” conversations Moreno DeLuca and his team had, the more they realized they were on to something greater than just connecting with clients. They saw first-hand how folks lit up when given an opportunity to talk about their passions.

Looking for a way to capture those experiences, the Prisma team connected with photographer Rick Guidotti, founder of the [Positive Exposure](#) initiative.

Since 1997, Rick’s photography work in the disability community has challenged stereotypes by emphasizing beauty and individuality over diagnoses. His work [captures people as they are](#), without staged makeup or forced poses, bringing out their authentic selves.

Rick’s unique approach—allowing participants to move and express themselves freely—results in images that truly reflect their personalities.

In 2024, following a successful [exhibit in Edmonton](#), the Prisma team brought Rick to Calgary for another photo shoot, which we hosted at The Ability Hub through our Community Use program.



Molly Goldman, a genetic counselor with Prisma, observed the profound impact of the sessions, in which Rick photographed 18 participants over two days. “I saw transformations happen in real time. People who were shy or unsure began to light up as Rick engaged with them and showed them their photos. It was incredible to witness.”

One of those participants was Seonyoung Chloe. “When she met with Rick, she shared that she never liked photos of herself,” says Goldman. Later, Seonyoung Chloe shared how the experience changed her perspective.



“In the photos, I look like a completely different person, and I’ve never had such a big, natural smile before. This experience has helped me embrace my neurodivergence more proudly and positively.”

~Seonyoung Chloe

For the use of Sinneave’s space and the staff support present, both Moreno DeLuca and Goldman expressed their gratitude. “We appreciate the warmth and effort your staff provided to welcome us into your space and community,” says Goldman. “The attention to detail allowed for a completely relaxed two days to focus on the incredible participants who came and shared their stories with us.”

The Calgary exhibit—***Celebrating Our Shared Humanity***—at University of Calgary’s Downtown Campus Lobby (906 8 Ave SW). will remain on display until January 16, 2026. You can RSVP your attendance to the Celebratory Closing event by [clicking the link here](#).

### About the Prisma Lab

**Prisma** is a multidisciplinary team at the University of Alberta, who work with children and youth on the autism spectrum at the intersection of genetics and mental health. The lab’s work encompasses four key areas: clinical, research, education, and community.

*\*An excerpt of this article is featured in The Sinneave Family Foundation’s [2024 Impact Report](#)*