

ABBY BUCHANAN

UX Researcher & Strategist

Portland, OR

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SUMMARY

UX researcher and strategist focused on how people experience systems under real-world conditions—cognitively, emotionally, and environmentally.

I study moments where people get stuck—overwhelm, ambiguity, and breakdown in task initiation—and translate behavioral insight into clearer, more usable systems. Since 2019, I've worked across physical and digital environments, using research, systems thinking, and sensory-informed design to improve clarity, usability, and flow. Seeking research-focused roles within collaborative product teams, especially environments that value async work, qualitative depth, and ethical approaches to technology.

CORE SKILLS

Qualitative Research • User Interviews • Research Synthesis • Research Strategy
Systems Thinking • Information Architecture • Journey Mapping • Accessibility
Neurodivergent Design • Cross-functional Collaboration

Tools: Figma • FigJam • Miro • Notion • Google Workspace • Agile environments

EXPERIENCE

Studio Manager (UX Systems & Operations) Amri Studio | 2022–2024

- Redesigned inventory, organization, and information-flow systems within a complex studio environment
- Improved usability and accessibility of the physical workspace, supporting neurodivergent employees
- Developed workflows and communication systems to increase clarity and team alignment

Freelance UX & Spatial Designer 2019–Present

- Conducted user-informed design for neurodivergent individuals, incorporating therapist input and individualized needs
- Designed sensory-informed and biophilic environments supporting regulation, clarity, and cognitive ease
- Designed curriculum for a multi-age pod-based homeschool, structuring content to support clarity and cognitive pacing
- Translated behavioral patterns into structured spatial and systemic design decisions

Freelance Web Designer (UX-Focused) 2019–Present

- Designed websites with clear user flows, improving onboarding and booking experiences by translating client needs into structured digital systems
- Developed a structured client discovery framework combining analytical and intuitive inputs to translate abstract brand identity into clear, systemized design direction

Founder & Owner Veda Collective | 2011–2019

- Scaled a solo practice into a team of 5 practitioners
- Designed end-to-end client experience, including intake, booking flows, and service structure
- Conducted client interviews and translated behavioral insights into repeatable, user-centered service delivery

Co-Owner & Systems Designer Resound NW | 2019–Present

- Designed and iterated on studio environments across multiple locations
- Contributed to systems supporting students and instructors
- Supported operational and strategic decision-making

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) Certificate — Cornell University

Certificate in Psychology of Home Design — Psychology of Home Design School

Bachelor of Music, Music Composition (Tech Minor) — Oral Roberts University