

Get started as a participant in a live session

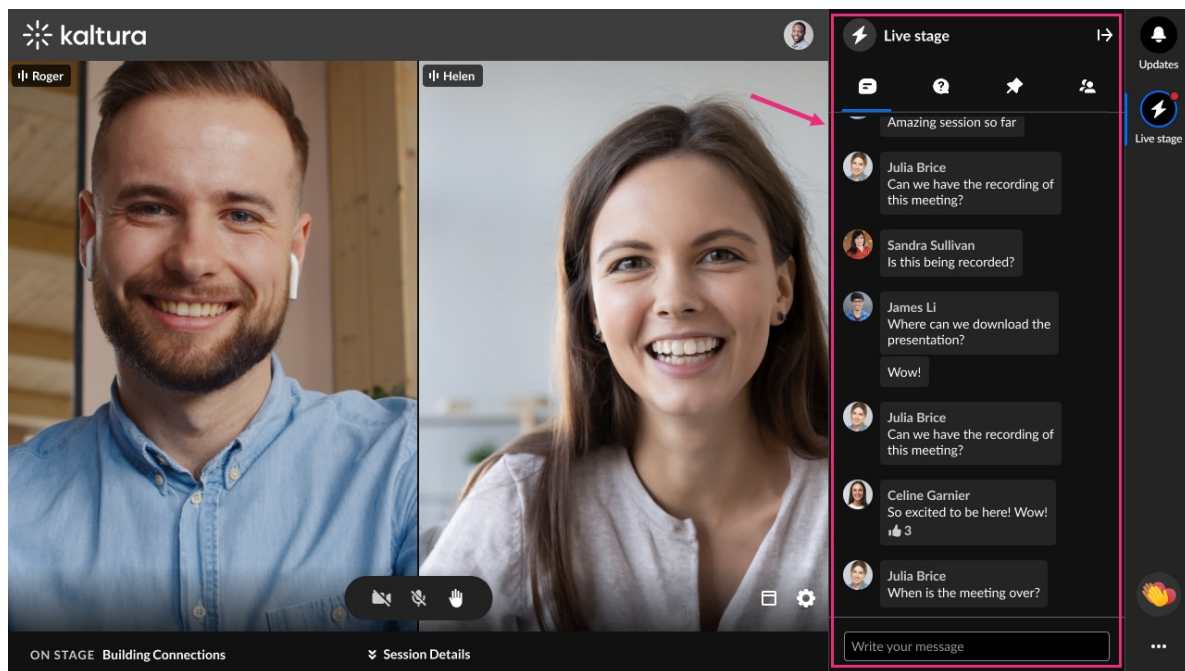
Content updated: 08/29/2026

 This article is designated for all users.

About

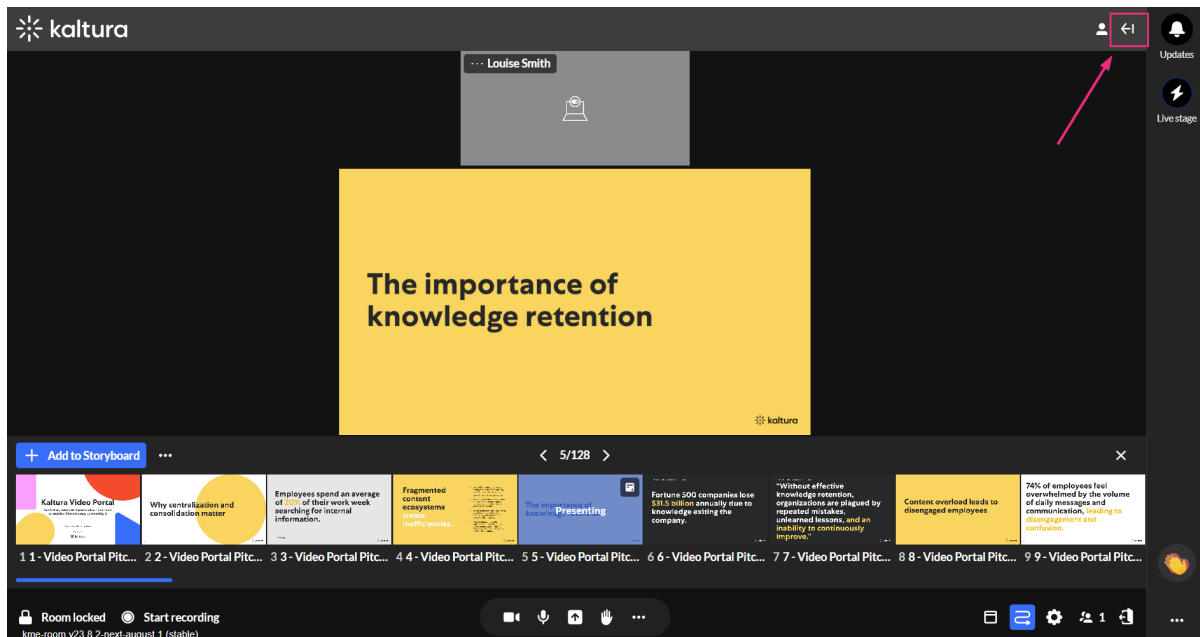
As a **participant**, you can use a variety of tools to communicate and interact with others during a live session. The tools available depend on the session type and account configuration.

This article introduces the main tools available to participants and helps you find the right workflow.

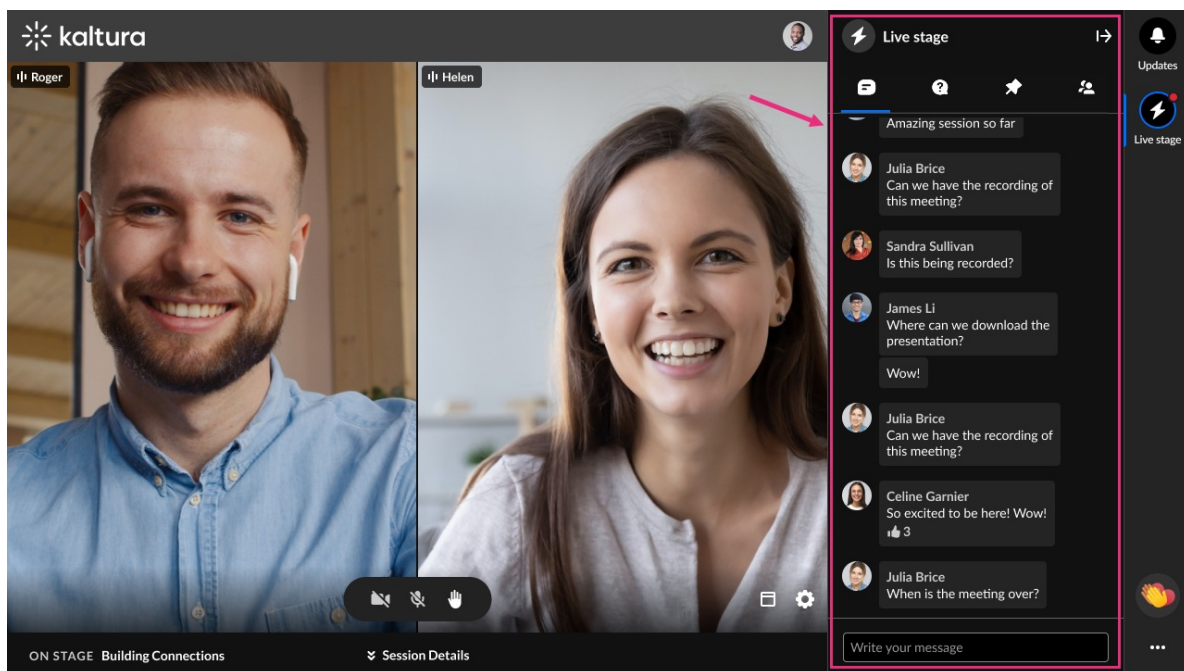


Open the engagement panel

Click the **arrow icon** in the upper-right corner of the screen.



The engagement panel opens on the right side of the screen and provides access to the tools available during the session.



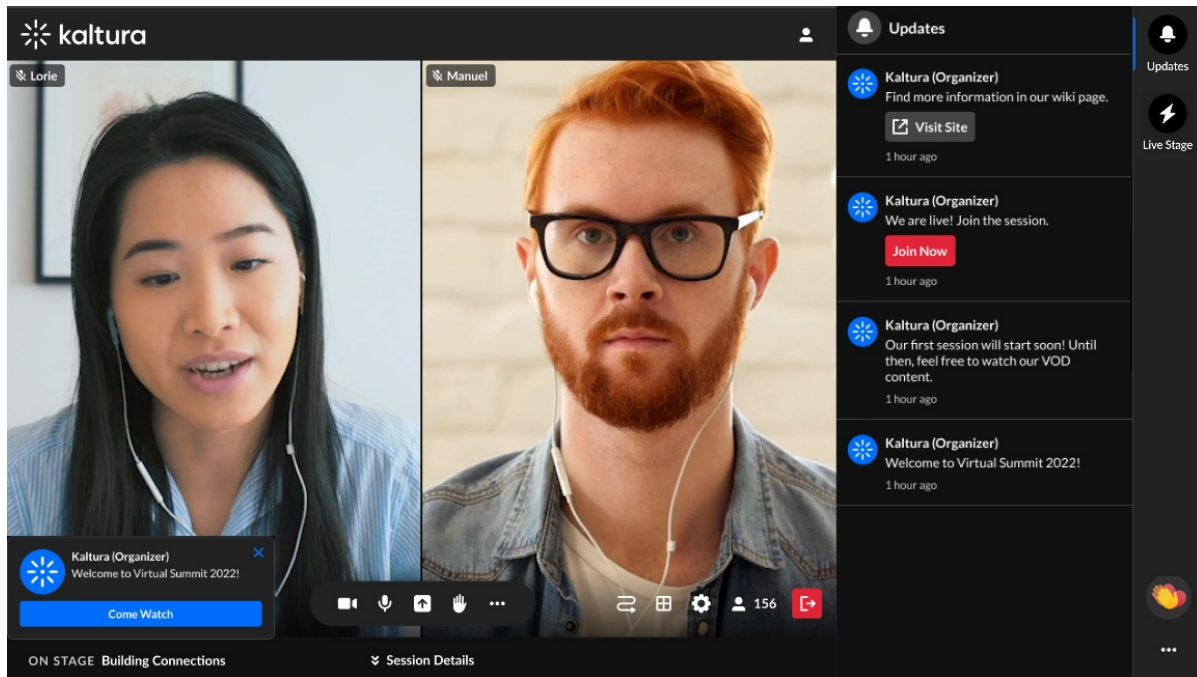
Explore the panel

The tabs and tools displayed in the panel depend on the session configuration.

Updates tab

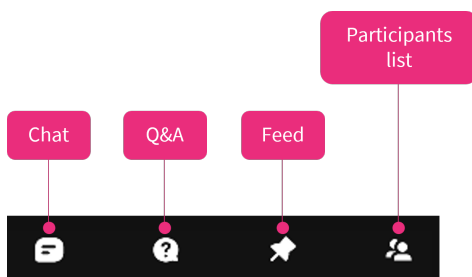
The **Updates** tab displays updates sent during the session. New updates also display briefly as notifications on the screen.

You can return to the **Updates** tab to view notifications you received earlier in the session.



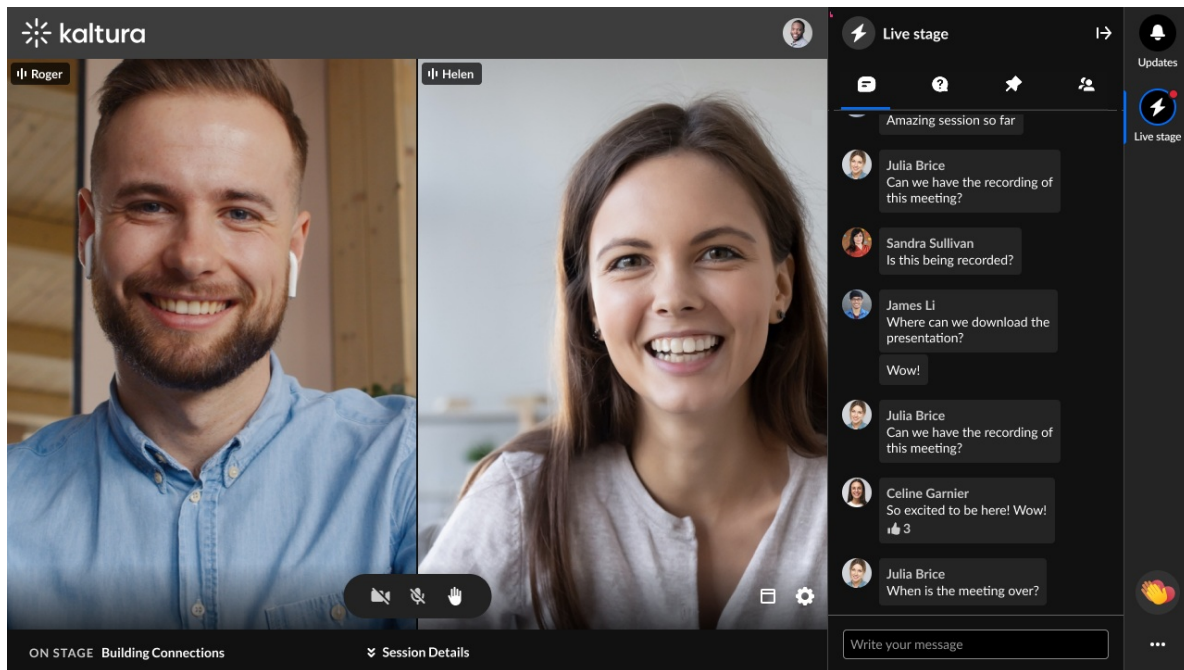
Live stage tab

The **Live stage** tab provides tools for communicating and participating during a live session.



Depending on the session, the Live stage can include the following tools:

- **Chat** – Chat with other participants during the session.
- **Q&A** – Ask questions and participate in Q&A discussions.
- **Feed** – View pinned items and respond to interactions.
- **Participants** – View who's in the session and their stage status, when available.

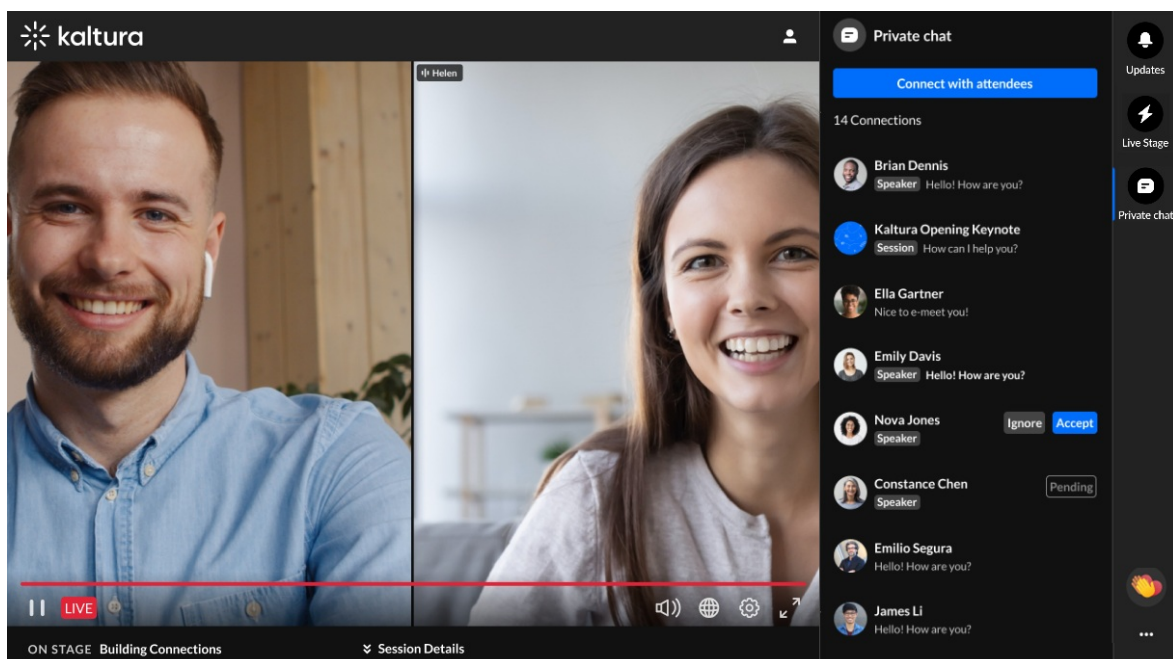


Private chat tab

The **Private chat** tab lets you have one-to-one conversations with other participants. You can send and accept connection requests and continue your conversations after the session ends.

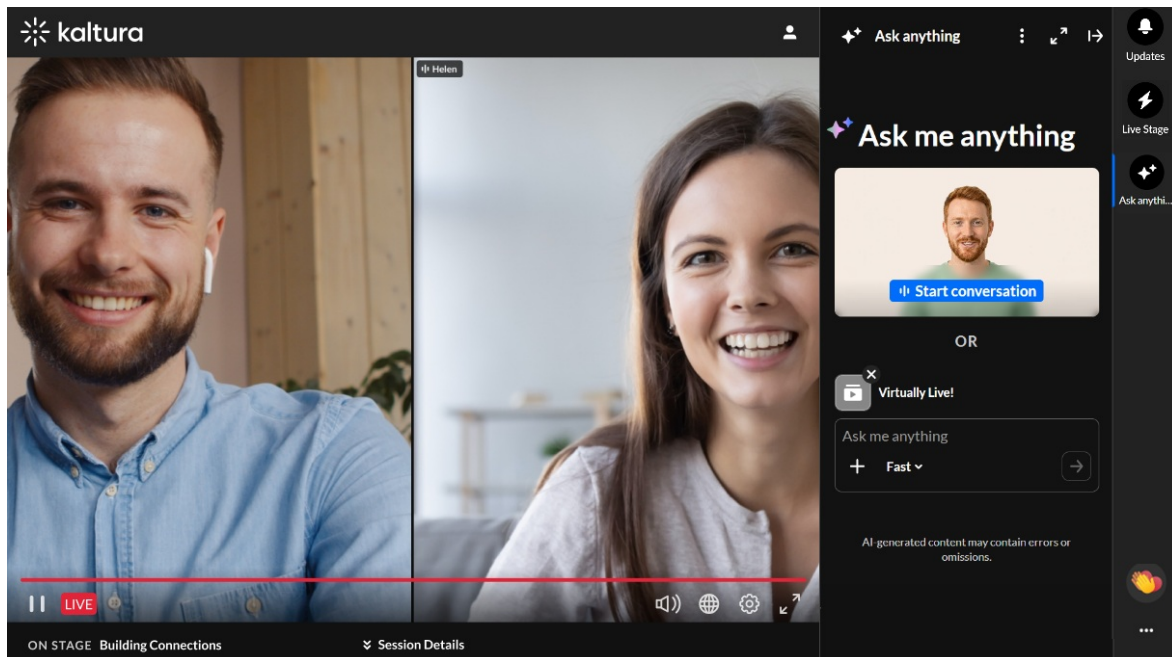


The Private chat tab is available only in **Kaltura Virtual Events & Webinars**.



Ask anything tab

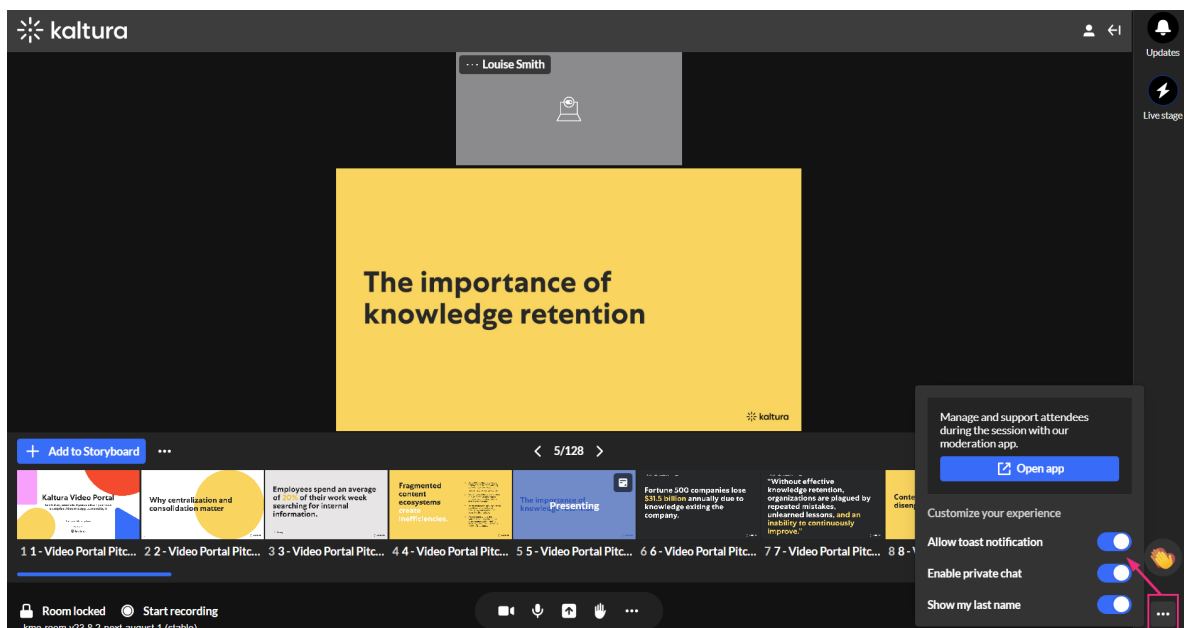
If configured, the **Ask anything** tab allows you to access Kaltura Genie's AI-powered assistant directly within the engagement panel, enabling you to ask questions and receive instant, context-aware answers without leaving your current page.



Configure your settings

You can configure your personal settings from the engagement panel.

Click the **three dots** at the bottom of the panel to open the settings menu.



Turn the following options on or off:

- **Allow toast notification** - Displays notifications for updates such as new polls or

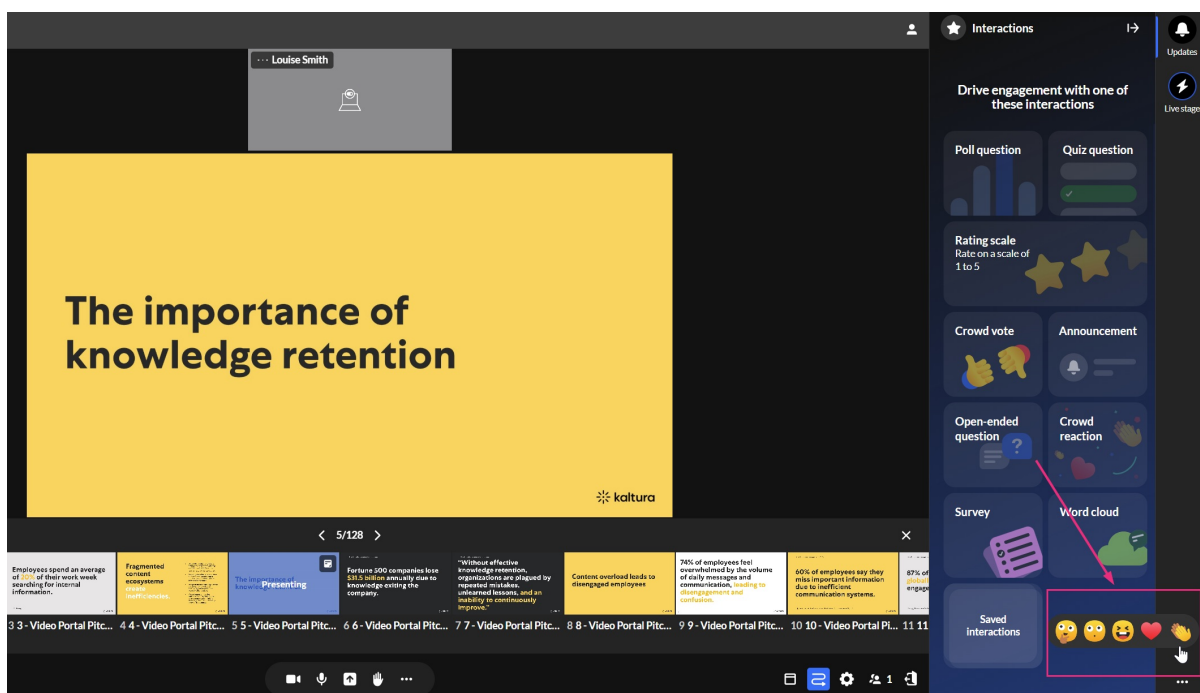
direct messages.

- **Enable private chat** - Allows one-to-one conversations with other participants. This option is available in Kaltura Events only.
- **Show my last name** - Displays your full name in the session.

Reactions

During a live session, you can use **reactions** to share your response. Reactions briefly display to everyone in the session.

Hover over the **Reactions icon (clapping hands)** at the bottom right of the panel to display the available reactions.



Join the stage

For live sessions that include a [Kaltura Room](#), you can join the stage when invited or request to join when the session settings allow it.

When you join the stage, you can use your camera and microphone to participate in the session.