Introduction to engagement tools for live sessions - for speakers

Content updated: 08/30/2026

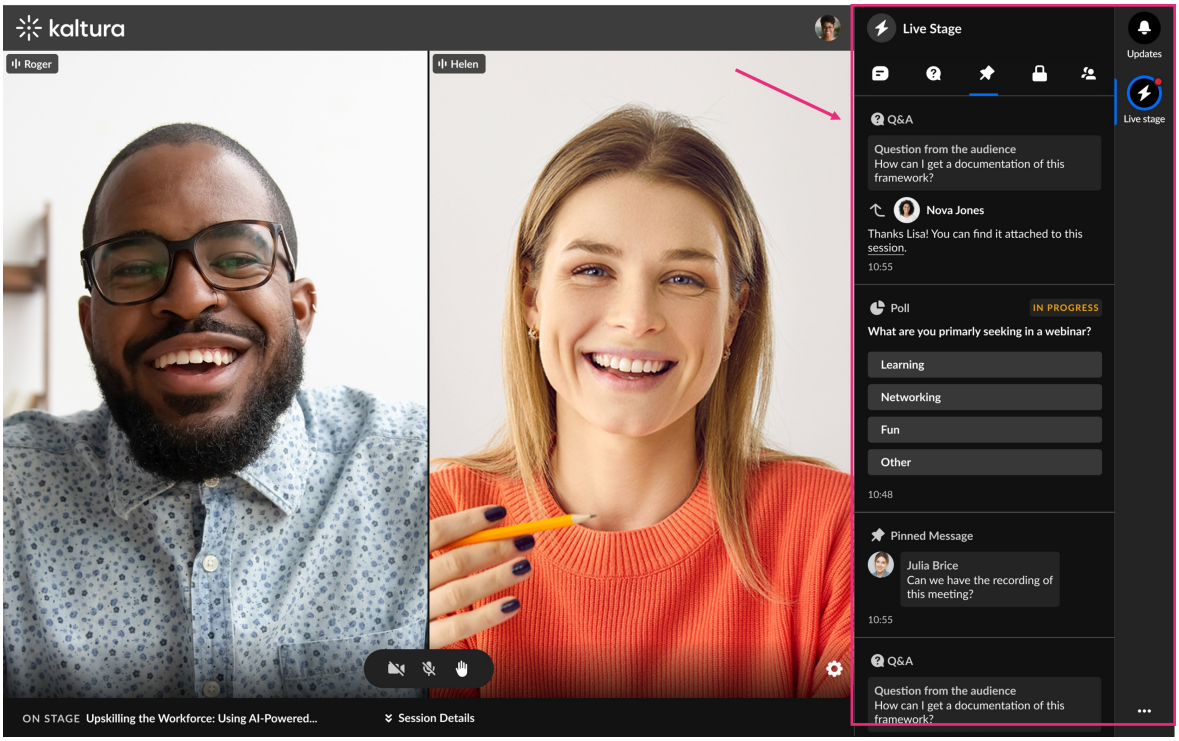
This article is designated for all users.

About

During a live session, speakers can use a variety of tools to communicate with participants and other speakers, respond to questions, and take part in session interactions.

Depending on your speaker role and the session configuration, these tools can include **Chat**, **Q&A**, **Feed**, **Backchannel**, **Updates**, and **reactions**.

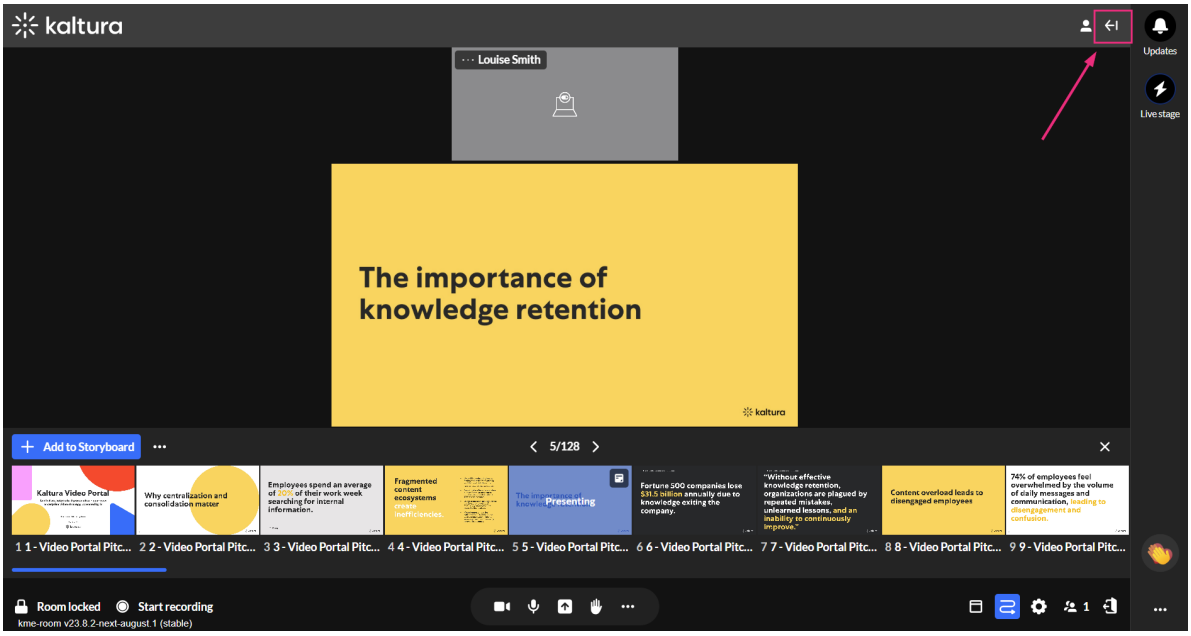
The tools available depend on the Kaltura application, session type, user role, and account configuration.



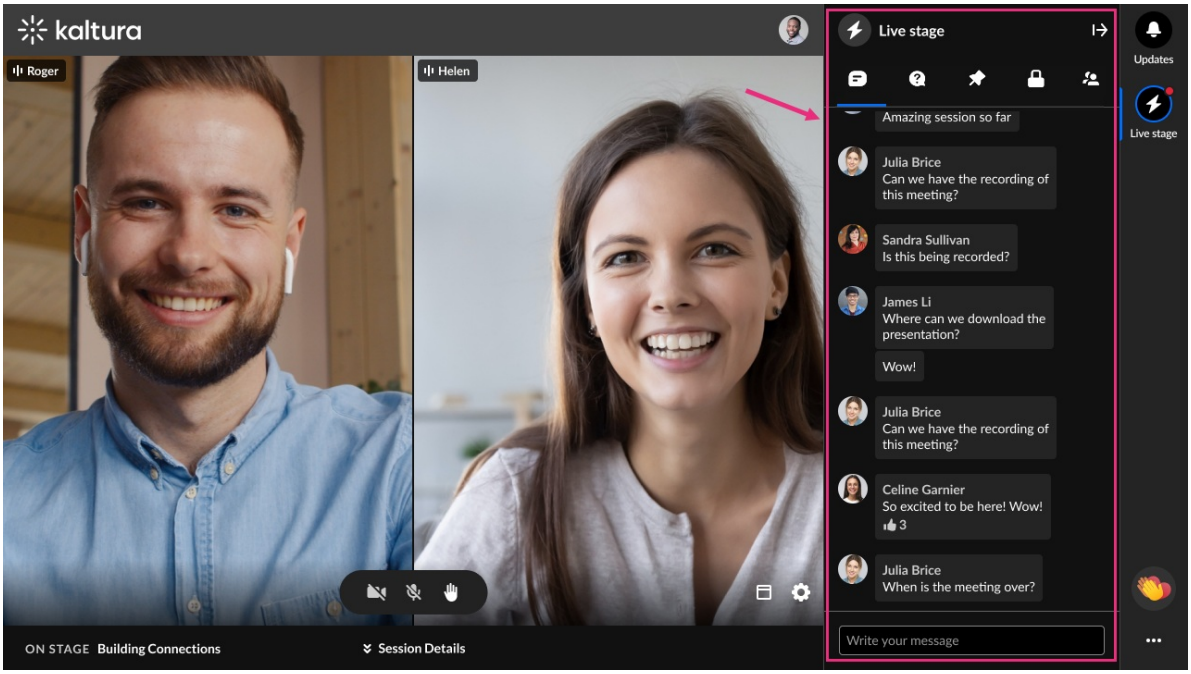
Open the engagement panel

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

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The engagement panel opens on the right side of the screen.



Explore the panel

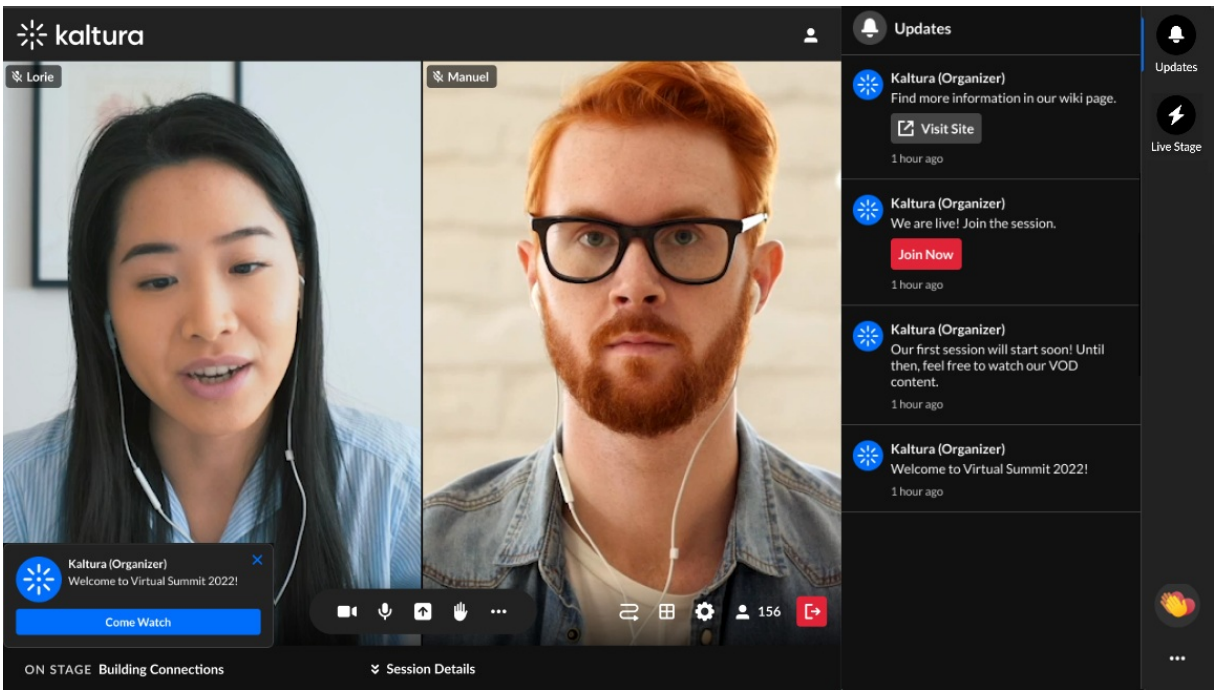
The tabs and tools displayed in the panel depend on your speaker role and the session configuration.

Updates tab

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

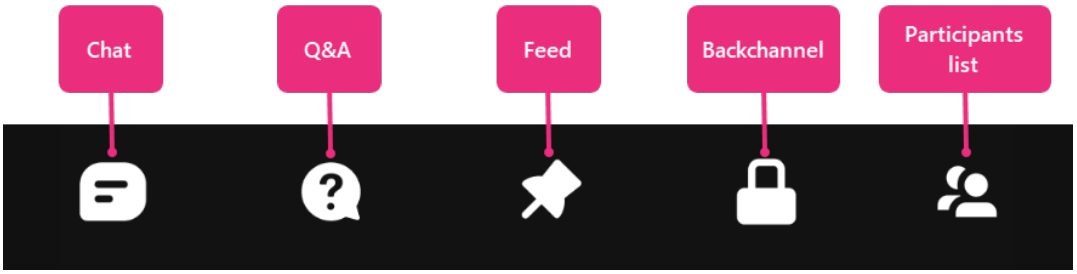
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You can return to the **Updates** tab to view notifications you received earlier in the session.



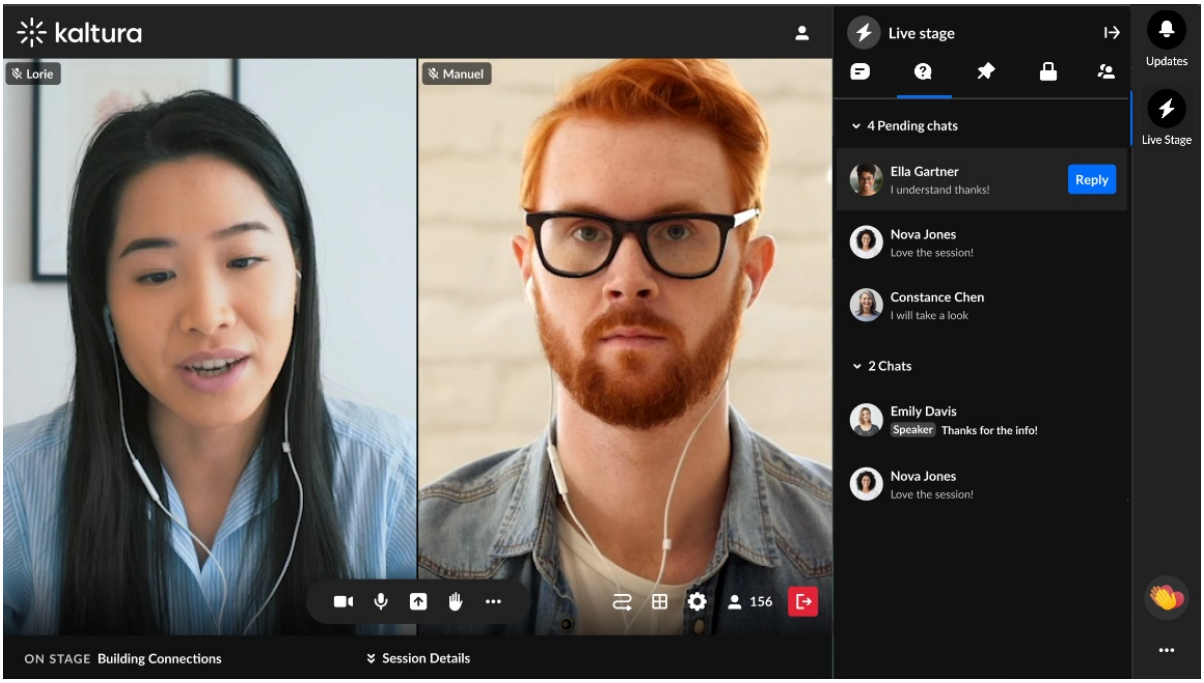
Live stage tab

The **Live stage** tab provides tools for communicating and participating during a live session. Depending on your assigned permissions and the session configuration, it can include **Chat**, **Q&A**, **Feed**, **Participants**, and **Backchannel**.



- **Chat** – Chat with participants during the session.
- **Q&A** – View and respond to participant questions.
- **Feed** – View pinned items and respond to interactions.
- **Backchannel** – Chat privately with moderators and other speakers.
- **Participants** – View who's in the session and their roles, when available. (The **Participants** tab is available for live sessions with a Kaltura Room component.)

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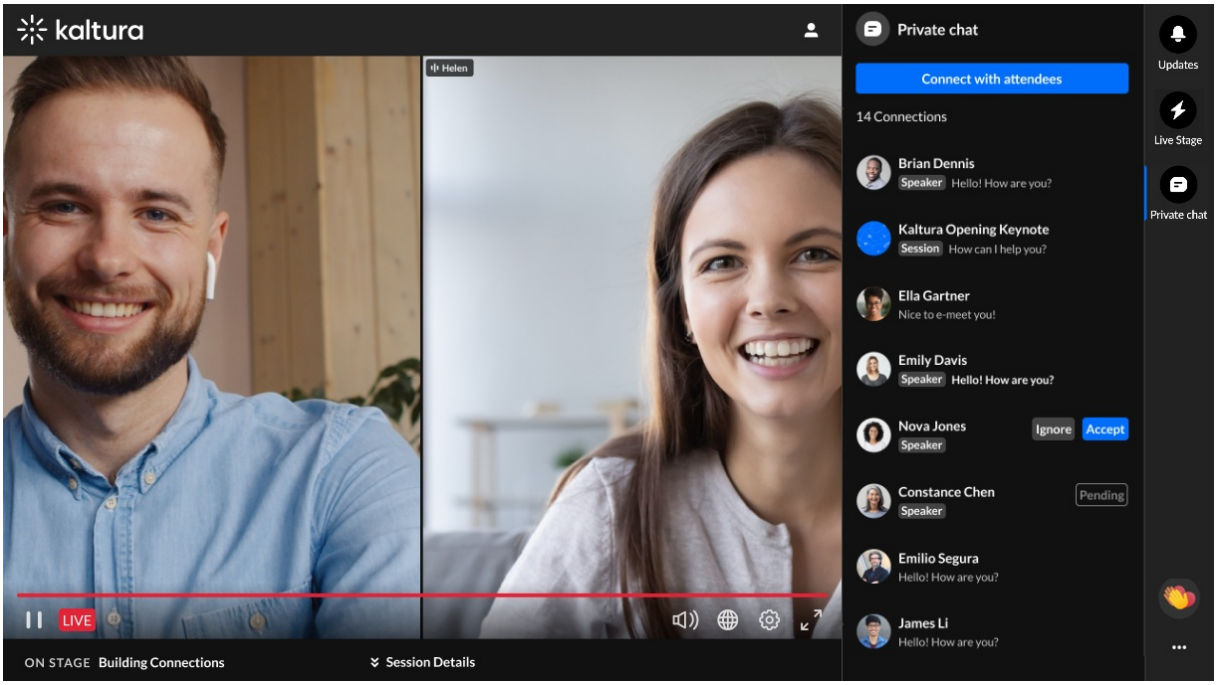
The features available in the **Live stage** tab can also vary depending on whether **Public Q&A** is enabled. Public Q&A is available only in Kaltura Events and Webinars.

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**.

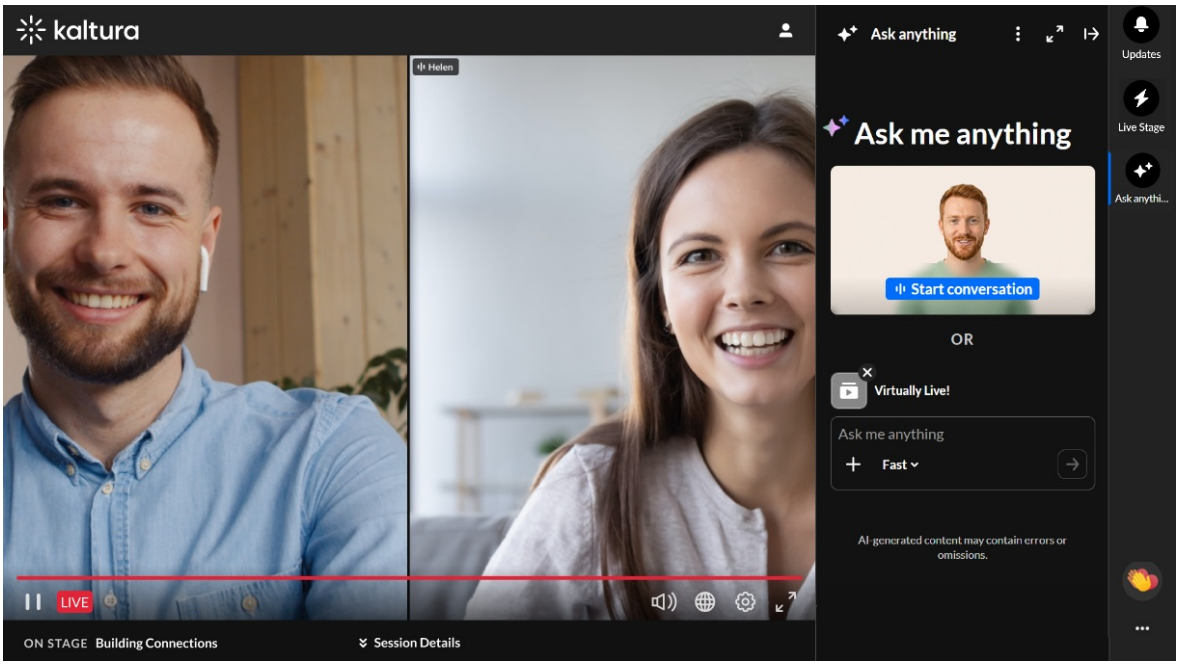
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Ask anything tab

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

The Ask anything tab is enabled in the engagement panel via the Genieai module.

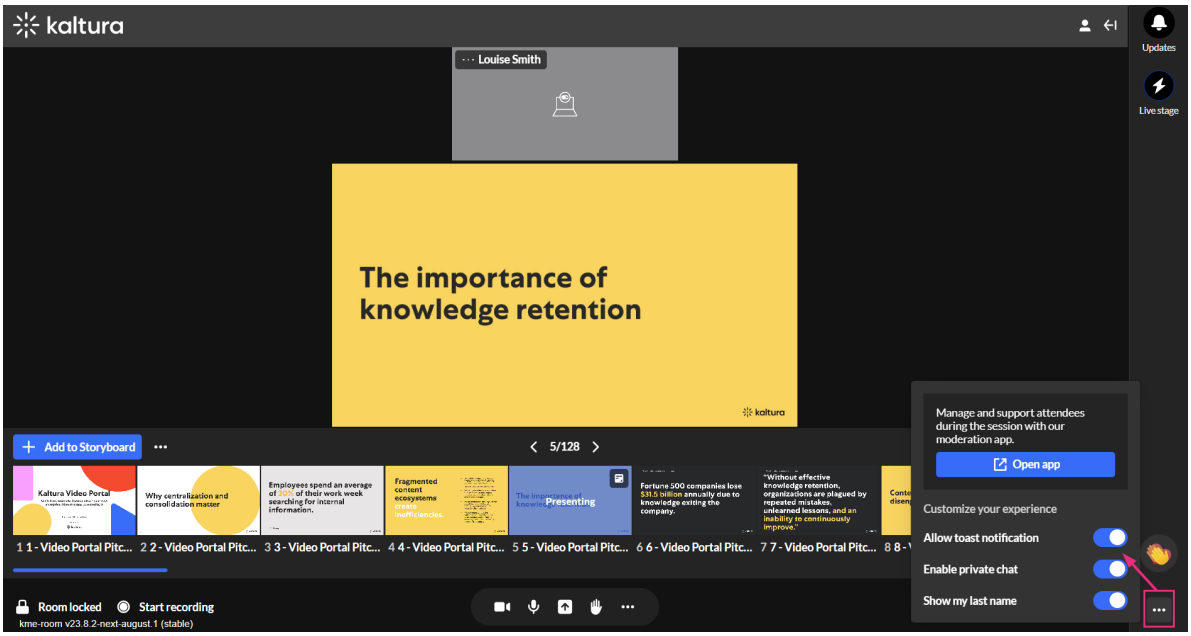


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Configure your settings

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:

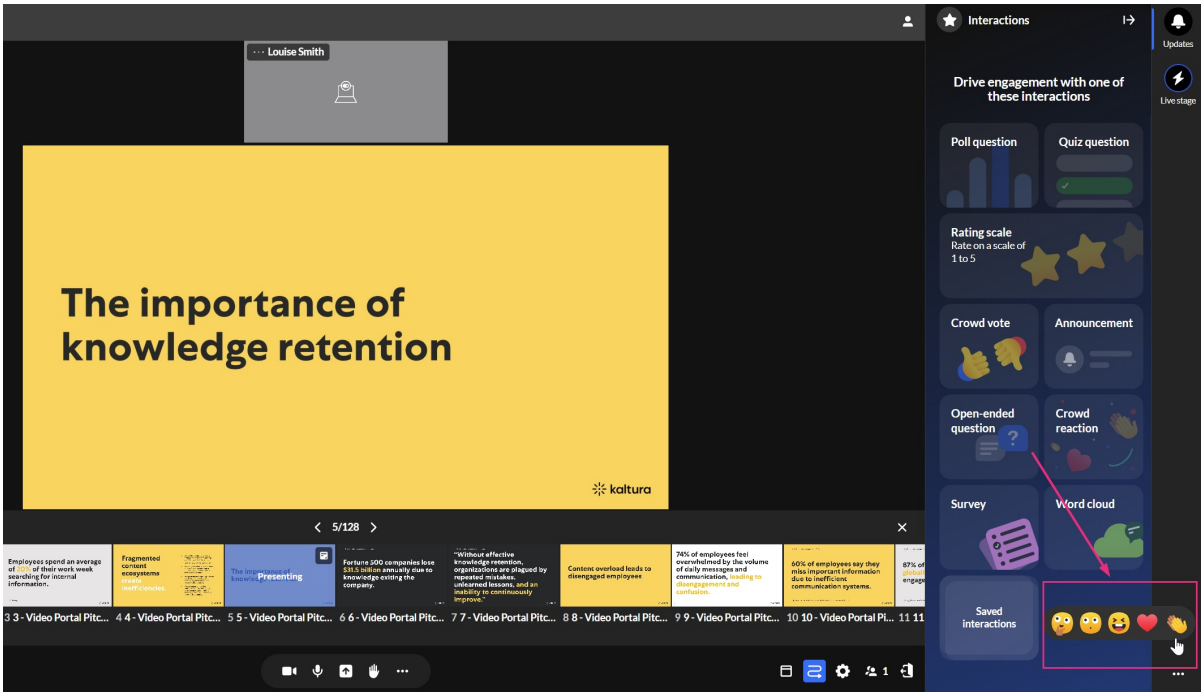
- **Allow toast notification** - Displays notifications for updates such as new polls or direct messages.
- **Enable private chat** - Allows one-to-one conversations with other participants. This option is available in Kaltura Events only.
- **Show my last name** - Displays your full name in the session.

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.

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