

A portrait of Vanessa Cardenas, a woman with short, reddish-brown hair, smiling and looking slightly to the right. She is wearing a black top. The background is dark with blurred blue and purple lights, suggesting an indoor event or stage setting. A bright circular light is visible in the upper right background.

Vanessa Cardenas

FOUNDER, UNDERSTANDING EAR

Understanding changes conversations.
Conversations change what happens next



People don't leave talking
about the presentation
They leave talking
differently to one another

*The presentation ends.
The conversation begins.*

The conversation doesn't end when the presentation does

Leadership.

Trust.

Relationships.

Culture.

Every organization depends on conversations
that move people forward.

My role isn't to deliver information.

It's to create understanding that people carry
back into their work, their teams, and their
relationships.

Understanding doesn't end a difficult conversation.

It makes a different conversation possible.



Speaking Topics

LEAD WITH HELLO

Featured Keynote

How the first moments of every conversation determine what happens next.

INTENTIONAL COMMUNICATION

The conversation people think they're having, and the one they're actually having.

WHEN ASSUMPTIONS REPLACE UNDERSTANDING

Why misunderstanding isn't usually about listening. It's about interpretation.

LEADERSHIP THROUGH BETTER CONVERSATIONS

Creating cultures where difficult conversations become productive.

Every keynote and workshop is tailored to the audience, organization, and conversation that needs to happen.



Vanessa brings real wisdom, lived experience, and tangible tools that every audience needs.

Jannette Anderson · Host, The Maturepreneur Podcast

"Vanessa doesn't just teach communication. She changes how people understand one another. That shift stayed with our audience long after the event ended."

JP Horgan · Event Organizer

Weeks after the event, people were still referencing her message. That's the mark of a speaker who creates lasting impact.

Casey Condon · Leadership Conference Organizer

Additional client and event reflections available upon request.

Trusted by organizations where conversations matter



HARVARD
Faculty Club



COLUMBIA
UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS
COLLEGE



HUMBER
POLYTECHNIC



SPEAKER
NATION



West Point Toastmasters
FOUNDING MEMBER



AMBASSADOR

*From universities and leadership organizations to
conferences, podcasts, and community groups, every
audience shares one goal: better conversations.*

BRING THE RIGHT CONVERSATION TO YOUR AUDIENCE

Keynotes • Workshops
Podcasts • Panel Discussions



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