



Minnie Baragwanath MNZM

International Public Speaker | Social Innovator
CEO | Advocate | Entrepreneur | Author
Founder | Director

Possibility Leadership
minnieb.co.nz

minnie 

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“There’s one word that creates a whole new world of possibility and untapped potential — it’s **‘with’**. It’s a foundational concept that supports all aspects of our business, from idea to implementation.”

Chantelle, David, & Anne
co-founders of TTLC

“The status quo is not benign. It is deeply inaccessible. If we are not actively designing access in, we are actually designing people, talent, and opportunity out.”

Minnie Baragwanath

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Bio

Minnie Baragwanath is an independent author, founder, coach, social innovator, and consultant: www.minnieb.co.nz. Minnie has been awarded the **New Zealand Order of Merit, the Sir Peter Blake Leadership Award, the Westpac Women of Influence Diversity award, and the Zonta Women's Award**. She was a top 10 finalist for the **Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year**.

The latest chapter in Minnie's pioneering story focuses on possibility, with its unique emphasis on 'Possibility leadership, design and innovation' as the key to future social transformation. The possibility lens, unique to Aotearoa but applicable to people everywhere, zeros in on the concept of '**with**', which puts forward a whole new social contract that speaks deeply to the notion of self-determination and true partnership.

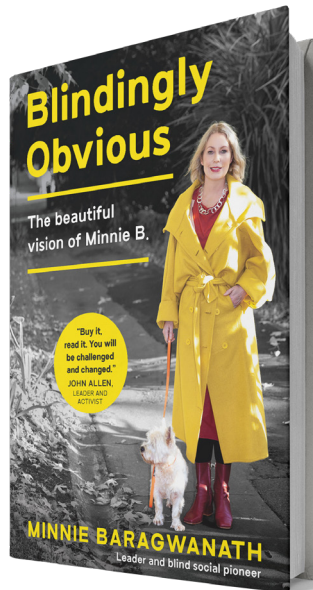
As Minnie says, "In every moment of every day, we have the choice whether or not to birth an accessible future. The key to

an accessible future of possibility lies in the concept of being with access leaders and pioneers. It challenges the notion of inclusion, which is still limiting because it depends on people inviting other people to the table — and doesn't ask who is doing the inviting and whether there should be a table at all.

"With is about intersectionality, acknowledging that every person is many things. With embraces possibility leadership as the mechanism and worldview to imagine and create a future of possibility, beyond current limiting paradigms, and beyond current concepts of disability and accessibility."

Minnie is an experienced, lively, and captivating public speaker who has addressed audiences around the globe and can speak compellingly and empathetically with anyone about why access matters and how to reimagine our world through a contemporary access lens.

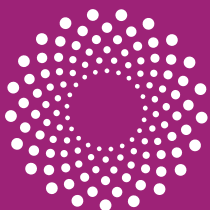




Minnie's book **Blindingly Obvious**, which crystallises her life and work, is on track to become the most accessible book in the world, striving to translate it into all three official languages of Aotearoa and published in multiple formats (including audio and video with NZ Sign Language interpreter) for access citizens.

Minnie's work and study as an access innovator and social entrepreneur extends over 25 years and has included many diverse roles. Amid the variety of global projects she is undertaking, including many international speaking opportunities and presentations, Minnie is the founder (in 2020) and Chief Possibility Officer of the Global Centre of Possibility @ AUT gcop.co.nz.

This is the second social enterprise she founded and led after establishing (along with an extraordinary team and board) Be. Accessible, the social change agency committed to the creation of a 100% accessible Aotearoa, particularly for the 25% of people living with an access need. In 2019 Minnie led the transformation of Be. Accessible into the Be. Lab belab.co.nz.



Global Centre
of Possibility



Testimonials

Ren Hammington

Business improvement leader,
technologist, design thinker, solutions
designer, strategist

"I had the pleasure of seeing Minnie speak at a recent ASENZ conference in Palmerston North. As a fan of TED videos I've seen a lot of engaging speakers, and I found Minnie's style consistent with some of the best speakers in the world.

"Humorous, authentic, and engaging, Minnie opened my eyes to some of the challenges faced by everyday New Zealanders and her inspirational vision for creating accessible communities. Her gregarious and outgoing personality, along with a very infectious laugh, enlivened our very dry, tired audience members. It's a very skilled speaker that can take that final slot at the end of the day and keep their audience's attention.

"I highly recommend attending anything where Minnie is speaking as you will leave feeling inspired and like you can be a part of the solution. Congratulations, Minnie, on the wonderful work that you do!"

Ant Howard

Director and business leader

"A compelling, engaging, challenging and often provocative speaker, who communicates from a position of lived experience."

Chorus

"Chorus experienced the joy of Minnie as a keynote speaker at our annual Leadership Conference in November 2022. The vibrancy of Minnie's heartfelt way of sharing her inspirational story created immediate connection with everyone in the audience. At the same time, Minnie effectively weaves into her talk the ongoing issues and societal challenges around accessibility. Minnie has an outstanding ability to engage and educate on just how necessary changes in accessibility are for companies. Minnie has left our leaders with a strong desire to take action to improve accessibility and to be more inclusive to those who need it most. Her presentation was a highlight for many at the conference."



Topics

Example of topics Minnie can speak on

Possibility leadership and the power of 'with'

- » A leadership framework for your organisation
- » Reframing our lens on the world
- » Developing the ability to reframe as a leader — how to bring a fresh lens to old problems
- » Minnie can explain what **'with'** means and why understanding it, and applying it in your organisation and with your people, opens up a new world of possibility and allows you to access untapped potential.
- » It is about a new, broader, and deeper understanding of diversity, with leadership frameworks that are about accessibility but are not exclusive to the access community.
- » Includes examples of how to understand, manifest, and apply **'with'** if you are running an organisation today or if you want to introduce **'with'** and possibility thinking into your organisation — regardless of size, industry, location. If there are people, they can be **'with'** each other and their communities, customers and clients, partners and suppliers.



Building resilience in your life, your team, your organisation

- » Blindingly obvious — what I can tell you about resilience
- » Life will knock you down, and there are many ways to get back up
- » Minnie can discuss, using examples from her own life, what to do when you come up against resistance, obstacles, or failure. She will talk about how, when denied entry into a tertiary course in television due to her blindness, she pivoted to radio. She recounts how she travelled the world, navigating mega-cities like New York and Tokyo, as a blind woman; how she overcame naysayers in an important public sector role for which she had no support and almost no funding, and used the role to springboard into founding her own social change organisation; and how she has repeatedly found the strength to advocate for others, even when going through personal travails such as cancer and its complications.
- » Knockbacks are universal, and they happen to all of us. Every obstacle and setback has been used by Minnie as an opportunity to create something new and better. How does she do it? Does she have a particular toughness of character, or are there tools she's applied, tricks she's used, or mantras she's repeated that anyone can learn?





Reframing “diversity & inclusion” in practice

- » Towards a new understanding of diversity – rather than inviting people to the table, asking ‘Do we even need the table?’
- » Finding the alchemy that allows us to turn adversity into opportunity – taking the complex stuff of life and turning it into gold
- » Challenging the tropes of inclusion
- » Minnie can discuss a new way of thinking about ‘diversity and inclusion’ in terms of what it means to be in conversation with the access community.
- » These are designed to be provocative conversations that challenge people’s comfort level around the concepts of diversity and inclusivity and push them to think differently and challenge their own unconscious bias.
- » Minnie can talk about how setbacks and major health events throughout her life – including her diagnosis as a teenager with a congenital condition that made her legally blind and surviving life-threatening illnesses as an adult – taught her how to think about people and possibility differently than perhaps any leader ever has.
- » She can offer a guide for thinking beyond the buzzwords – how to apply practices of ‘diversity’ and ‘inclusion’ to make your organisation stronger, more successful, more appealing to its audiences and customer base; how to invest in employees, attract and retain the right people, and help stakeholders keep learning as you go.



Future-focused possibility leadership

- » Seeing possibility as a space of untapped innovation and potential
- » Designing and leading from a place of **'with'**
- » Minnie can talk about her lived experience, which has proved that true disruption isn't like launching a new chocolate bar to the market. Email, the electric toothbrush, the telephone, visual recognition technology — these are all innovations that emerged from the access community in response to unmet needs there. Many of our great entrepreneurs are people with access needs (Richard Branson, for example, has talked about his dyslexia), and because of these needs they live and work in a rich, generative space that is about ideation, problem-solving, adding the 'un' to 'conventional'.
- » Possibility leadership is about tapping into the resources that reside in the access community and working **'with'** people in this community of rich innovation. Possibility thinking is imaginative thinking, opportunity thinking, opening the space to questioning how things have always been done.



Experience

Presentations & speaking events

- » TEDx Auckland.
- » The Remarkable Summit in San Diego 2023 and in San Francisco 2022.
- » United Nations UNFPA AccessAbility Innovation Challenge 2023.
- » 10x10 in Partnership with GCOP 2023.
- » Urbanism Conference 2023.
- » Chorus Leadership Summit 2022.
- » Westpac Accessible Employment event 2021.
- » Women in Public Sector Summit 2021.

Rates & packages

This depends on and can be tailored to your needs and budget. For more specific details and an accurate estimate, feel free to get in touch directly.





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