



Vedra Chandler

Partner - Studio 553, LLC

Vedra Chandler is a Camden, New Jersey native whose career bridges performance, community development, and civic leadership. She is a graduate of Harvard University, where she earned a degree in Government, and brings a multidisciplinary background spanning business, music, placemaking, and event planning.

After several years working in logistics and supply chain management, Vedra returned to her first love—performance—joining the national touring company

of the Broadway musical *Hairspray!*. She went on to perform in a range of theatrical productions before touring internationally as the Soul Singer with Cirque du Soleil's *KOOZA*. Her years on stage as an actress and singer continue to inform her creative practice and community-centered approach to the arts.

Today, Vedra has returned home to Camden, where she works as a singer and Community Solutions Specialist, designing arts-based programs that foster cultural vibrancy, promote civic pride, and inspire social responsibility. She previously served as Associate Director of The Neighborhood Center, Inc., and later as Community Events Manager for Camden Community Partnership. In these roles, Vedra produced hundreds of arts and placemaking projects across the city, activating parks and public spaces, elevating local artists, and contributing to Camden's ongoing renaissance.

In 2020, Vedra played a key role in securing and implementing a \$1 million Bloomberg Philanthropies Public Art Challenge grant, which leveraged large-scale public art installations to draw attention to Camden's efforts to combat illegal dumping through creative and community-driven solutions.

Vedra continues to perform regularly with her band, CraVed, at festivals and events throughout the Delaware Valley. She also appears in select theatrical productions at The Victor Vault in Berlin, NJ, and with the Ritz Theatre Company in Oaklyn, NJ, where she recently portrayed Deloris Van Cartier in *Sister Act!*—a performance that earned her the 2025 Ritzy Award for Favorite Actress in a Musical.

In addition to her board appointment to the New Jersey State Council on the Arts in 2026, Vedra serves as the Vice Chairperson on the Camden County Cultural and Heritage Commission Advisory Board. She is a member of Macedonia A.M.E. Church in Camden and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.