

Audition Side #2

VICTORIA

PRINCIPAL DESIGNER/ OWNER

Beige and white jacket, plaid scarf, black leather pants and brown boots,
a tapestry of fashion.

AGE: 52 (She/Her) KENYAN

CREATE A SPACE

START
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Why York? York because I found love and I was married into this area (laugh), so I I it's a good reason to move, right?

Part of it has to do with I am a fashion designer and um and as as you may well know, most creatives dabbled in a lot of things, but fashion design is my uh my first love. And so when I came here, I was able to find a little loft and I started doing um more work. I had a a retail store and people used to come and just really want to find out more about who I am and where I come from and the moment I mentioned Kenya, it just gravitated to okay, so we love your clothes, but tell us more about your music, about your food and things like that. When I opened up my retail space and the one thing that I wanted to do is there was a lot of open mike nights of poetry.

and uh apparently some authorities didn't like the fact that I was doing that and they actually showed up um and especially, the, uh, it was a fire chief, not the fire chief but his assistant or somebody, sent his people to come and tell me to shut down what I was doing because the space wasn't enough to allow, you know, they made it sound like I had a thousand people in the store and it was not the case.

└ END

Um, thankfully, the Mayor then, um, Mayor Kim Bracey, I I reached out to them, they, the chief was brought in the Mayor came in, they came and visited the shop and you know, everything was straightened out and you know, it turned out that, you know, that was unacceptable, shouldn't have happened to begin with. Uh, but the fact that they um took care of it quickly was something that I you know that reminds me of the kindness of the people here. So, um, that grew into a um a community free jazz night at the at the retail space I had. So every third Thursday of the month we used to have that uh free jazz night at the place and then people wanted to find out about food so I created something called um Gusa Dining Excursions and what we would do with that is uh focus on a country uh and then go to the Central Market uh open space kitchen and kind of demonstrate what we're doing with the food and how it was created and so introduce people to the history of the country, the music, the food and yeah all the good stuff about that. So that was my way of educating the community about different places that they probably would not be traveling to.

My oldest child is on the autism spectrum and his social skills are really something that he still struggles with and he will the rest of his life. But music was the way he spoke to us. So we decided, I decided I wanted to be able to create a space for him