

Gentrification

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Why I wanted to do this project

I chose to do this project because it is interesting to me how where I have lived my whole life is changing rapidly everyday. By doing this project I learned the effects of gentrification and how communities organize to fight against gentrification. My capstone helped achieve my learning goal because I obtained information on my topic by doing research and finding statistics as well as conducting interviews in my community. The core values fit into my project because I used inquiry when I asked questions while conducting my interviews. Research fits into my project because I researched facts and statistics on gentrification in my community and why it is happening. Collaboration fits into my project because other people helped me create my project by being in my interviews. Reflection fits into my project because at the end I will assess my learning and findings and related it back to my learning goals. Presentation fits into my project because I will have to showcase my findings.

What is gentrification ?

Gentrification is a general term for the arrival of wealthier people in an existing urban district, a related increase in rents and property values, and changes in the district's character and culture. The term is often used negatively, suggesting the displacement of poor communities by rich outsiders. But the effects of gentrification are complex and the impact it has varies. I think gentrification has historically been understood as the arrival of wealthier people in an urban district with the result of increasing costs and displacing existing residents.

History of Mantua



Prior to the 1940's Mantua was a predominately white neighborhood. Shortly after this time black families began moving into the neighborhood. People often say that the 1950's was what was known as the peak of the neighborhood. In the early 1960's Mantua started seeing a lot of gang warfare. Despite a lot of the drug and other crime related activities that were going on in the streets activists like Herman Rice and Andrew Jenkins came together to form the Young Great Society and the Mantua Community Planners.

Affordable Housing

Affordable housing is housing which is deemed affordable to those with a median household income. If you live in an affordable housing home you technically don't own your home since the government pays out money to help you stay there. In my neighborhood we are surrounded by a lot of affordable housing homes. You are allowed to stay in affordable housing in my neighborhood only if you make under 23,000 dollars a year. If you make over 23,000 you are required to find somewhere else to live which people are fighting against because with that little of a salary there aren't really a lot of other places to live.

Herman Rice

Herman Rice played a big role in my community. He was a renowned community organizer and the inventor of the Wrice Process method of direct action. He was also the founder of the Young Great Society which was an organization made to uplift youth and give them somewhere else to turn rather than the streets. In 1988 he organized the Mantua Against Drugs Movement. He also began the demolition and closing of crack houses and led marches against drug dealers who operated freely in the streets of Mantua. The police took notice of his great work and began helping him.



Effects of gentrification & how it can divide a changing neighborhood

Gentrification divides neighborhoods. Essentially when spectators come into neighborhoods and price houses at a higher cost they force residents that lived in their houses for several years out of their homes often leaving people scrambling with nowhere to go. An article that I read from Philly news addressed how gentrification affects people. A lady named Mrs. Ballard who lives in the Center City West section of the city has lived in her home for over 70 years. Her neighborhood is experiencing new changes a lot of the new residents that are coming to reside where she lives are wealthier & “whiter”. People have been offering to buy her seven-bedroom home. She explains that people continue to knock on her door to ask to buy her home when she’s not interested in selling. In neighborhoods all around the city, longtime residents express fear of being forced out of their homes as waves of wealthier residents move in and spur property values to rise dramatically.