

### Interview Transcript #3

0:34

Jordan - Ok so if you could just state your name, age, and where you go to school

Julissa - My name Julissa Moreno, Im 15, and I go to Menlo Atherton High School

1:05

Jordan - Can you just describe MA's community, Like what you've noticed?

Julissa - What I've noticed from MA from my school community is just like, In those two years that i've been there nothing has really changed. There hasn't been a big difference of change. But it's just like we are all friendly and we all get along, we just don't really like mix in with each other. So it's like we separate from each other. So you will see people from the football team hanging out in one spot and then you will see like the people of color hanging out in another spot and then you will see all the white people in a different spot. So I feel like at MA we are friendly and we get along with each other but I feel like the only thing that is left out is we need to hang out with each other and be more mix with each other.

2:04

Jordan - so there is a lot of division?

Julissa - Ya it's like divided, its like MA is divided.

2:11

Jordan - Alright and can you tell us a little bit about your home like who lives with you

Julissa - I live with my dad, It's always been me and him. And I mean it's the typical he goes to work, I go to school and work. I work with Yuca, which is a non profit organization

2:40

Jordan - Have you ever had to move?

Julissa - I've actually had to move due to rent increasing, so I used to live in redwood city and I had lived there ever since I was born and I had to move around 7th grade. I had to move over to EPA because it was like the only place we could afford. And that's when I had enter a new school and I had to enter a new house, I had to start my life all over again so it's just ya.

3:14

Jordan - so moving like in 7th grade that was hard, cause like I moved too and going to a new school, but atleast I knew a couple of people, but it's kinda hard when its a whole new group of people. So was moving in 7th grade really tough?

Julissa - Ya it was different because like you don't know nobody, Its new and it's like you don't know how you are gonna be treated or anything. SO like moving here it felt like my life was starting again because you leave a lot of stuff behind where you used to live, even if it's like harder if its a new city, especially with a new city because you don't know anything around you and you don't go out a lot because you don't know the streets around you so ya

4:00

Jordan - and you went to middle school here ?

Julissa - Ya I came here for 7th and 8th grade and then redwood city I only went there for like 6th grade, I went to Kennedy.

4:11

Jordan - Are there differences you noticed between niners academy and MA?

Julissa - There has been a lot of differences that I've noticed, like I know here at the 49ers academy it was like family. Everyone knew each other, everybody was friendly, like there was no drama at all. Like and if there was like you would automatically be friends right after that drama cause like we are all like family and we treat each other like family. And if you see here, a lot of us are people of color, so we are not used to having new people come in. But at Menlo atherton it's a way bigger school and over there it feels like your on your own like you don't really see each other like family. You are just friends. And like some people if you don't talk to them, oh well, and if you do then good but that's on you.

5:21

Jordan - So your experiences are way different?

Julissa- yea its like way more drama, and a way bigger school, and then in a school where like its smaller and its much more of a community....

5:32

Jordan- So kinda switching gears, in your own words, what is gentrification

Julissa- For me gentrification is when higher income people, move or come into a lower income community, so like let's say... we all know that white people are in the higher income and people of color are in the lower income, and it's just like that's how society is in the united states and everyone knows it. So it's just like, for example higher income people coming into our community, it's just like gentrification for us because do they even know about our community and stuff like that

6:28

Jordan- What do you think are the causes of gentrification? Why would these people want to come into lower income communities?

Julissa- I feel like what causes it, and i feel like there are a lot of problems that cause it, like for example tech companies is a big one, a big reason why it's happening in our community and also just like rents. Like rent is rising and it's going way higher and a lot of the people who have been living in this community for a long time, can't even afford it anymore, and they have to move out, but since those people could afford it they just come in out of nowhere and it's just like they're...

8:08

Jordan-We've talked about what gentrification is and what causes it, now who do you think has the power to speak out against it

Julissa- if you really think about it, who has power to fight gentrification,, it's mostly our community, its us who has the power. If you think about it, if you get mad that gentrification is affecting your community and like for example East Palo Alto, gentrification affects our community in many different ways, mostly our culture, EPA has a culture you know, like we like to have block parties or something sometimes, that's like our culture, and when gentrification comes in it like effects it and our culture just breaks down and we don't do none of the things we used to do no more. So I feel like who has the power to fight gentrification, i feel like its us, and us getting our voice out and it's just like us coming together and having the confidence, having the energy, having the courage to come together and just fight for it all, and make your voice go out and speak on the topic too.

9:58

Jordan- Do you have any stories, or anything you've experienced that ties into this topic that you feel comfortable sharing?

Julissa - I guess just like, gentrification coming into EPA, i'm not used to it, it's something that, just comes out of nowhere like I dont know whats happen so it feel like something new that you need to become familiar with and used to it so out of nowhere you see all these new changes you see in your community that you never expected or you never thought about or you also never seen. So it's just like out of nowhere you see all of this and you're like what's going on. Sometimes i'll be walking down the street and I know a lot of people that used to live in some houses and then i walk by and then they don't even live there no more it's all new people so i'm like dang, gentrification is really a problem, it's really affecting the community. It pushes people out, people that have been living here all there life, ever since they were little, there's so many families i know that get sad because all of their memories are here and they are forced to move hours away from their community.

14:47

Jordan - What do you believe or what do you hope to see happen next? Obviously this issue isn't going anywhere but what do you hope to see next?

Julissa - There's already a lot of people who are fighting gentrification to be gone. Teres a lot of organization slike Yuca, that's one of them, we like to help with problems that the community has like we will go to city council to pass a measure like that. Gentrification is going to grow no matter what. It's always going to grow. We can't stop that. When it first came to EPA there wasn't that much but it keeps growing more and more so it's going to grow no matter what so at this point it's a n outreach to people and trying to get them to be part of solving the problem and it's all on us and if we don't raise our voice then nothing's going to happen and there going to think its ok for gentrification to be coming into our community.

After interview chat

- Julissa: When gentrification comes on, you get the vibe. Like the vibe you used to get before and the vibe you get now. I think people get mad a lot about gentrification because the new people come in and judge your community without knowing it. Everyone knows EPA used to be dangerous, like bad bad. But people hear that and then assume that it still is when they don't know how our community is known and they don't know no history about EPA as well.