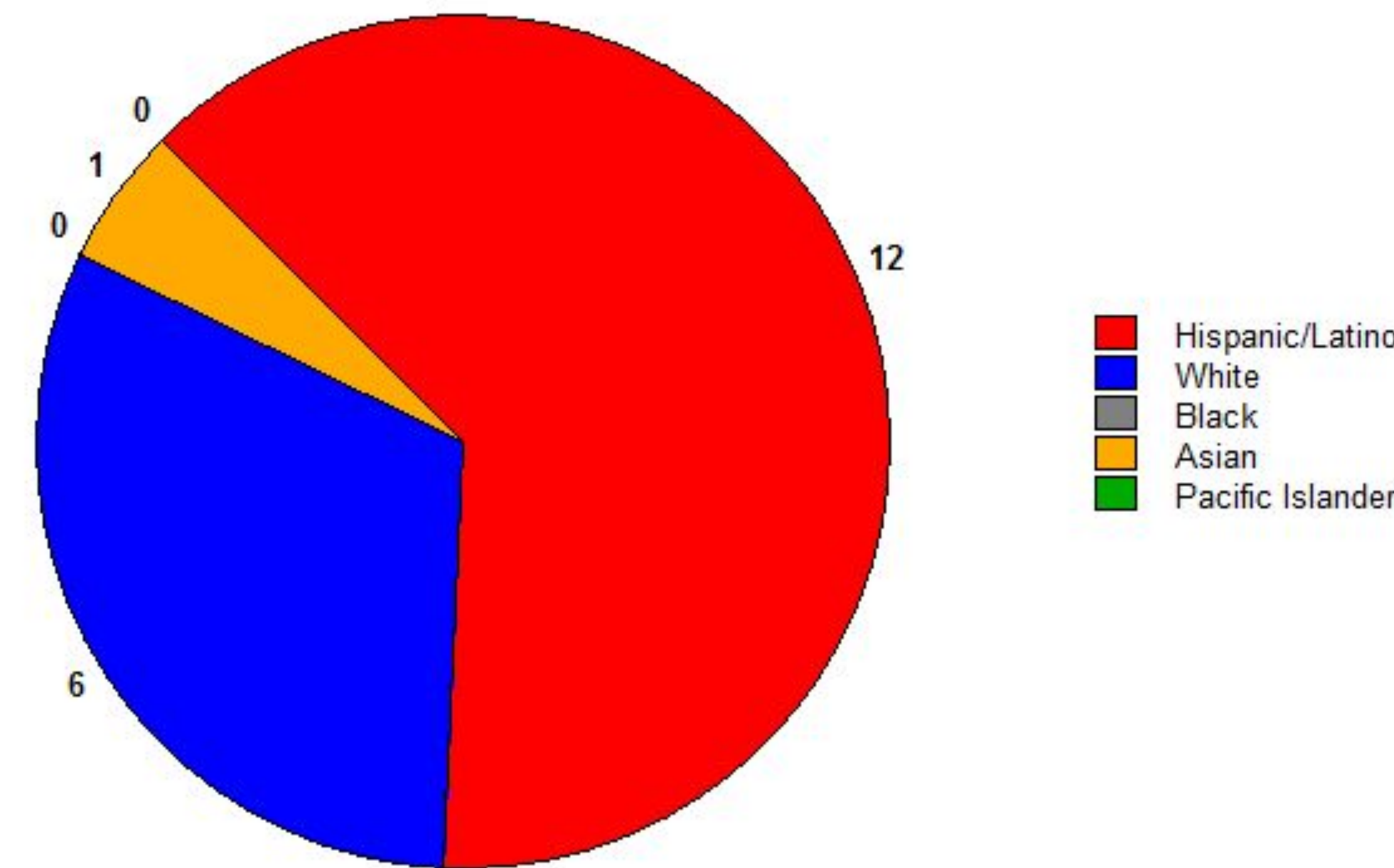


INTRODUCTION

Housing decisions within the United States are predominately made in favor of wealthy white people. This is demonstrated in the documentary, “City Rising,” which portrays the history of segregation and housing problems in America, beginning with Native Americans who were forced out of their lands and onto reservations. This was quickly followed by the enslavement of Africans and later by Japanese internment camps. These examples show how oppression toward non-white people--and most often, discrimination toward people who are not rich, white, straight males--has been consistent throughout the history of this country. When the people in power are consistently white and male, it often results in the disfranchisement of those who are not. Gentrification is one of the ways in which this dynamic of power plays out. Gentrification often results in racial and socioeconomic segregation, including in housing. Since the effects of gentrification are multifaceted, this report will be limited to one regional area: the east side of Menlo Park (often referred to as “Belle Haven”) and how the City of Menlo Park is working to address gentrification.

DATA AND FINDINGS

Ethnicity groups of the Belle Haven Mini Grant Applicants



For my action plan, I sat on the Belle Haven Mini Grant Program committee. According to Census 2010 data, of the 6,095 residents of Belle Haven, 68.6% were Hispanic, 17.9% were African American, and 5% were Pacific Islander. Only 2% were White. Yet, as the data shows, even though African Americans make up around 18% of the Belle Haven population, there were 0 grant applications from African Americans.

ethnicity	% of Belle Haven population in 2010	applications received from each ethnicity
Hispanic/Latino	68.6%	12
White	3.6%	6
Black	17.9%	0
Asian	2.7%	1
Pacific Islander	5.5%	0

CONCLUSIONS, IMPLICATIONS, AND NEXT STEPS

The Belle Haven Mini Grant Program was created to benefit Belle Haven community members by supporting small projects that bring value to the community such as funding a lending library, home/yard improvements, and community events. The Belle Haven Community Development Fund’s mission is to “engage the Belle Haven Community in advocating for our common goals and broker resources to foster sustainable community development.” The program was created to benefit the Belle Haven community members, yet there were 0 applications received from African American residents despite the fact that they make up around 18% of the Belle Haven population.

Throughout the process, I learned that applying for the mini grant can be quite difficult. There are a lot of variables that must be taken into consideration. The goal is to make the application accessible to everyone in the community. To reach the broader demographics of Belle Haven, it would be helpful if the program translated application information into a variety of languages. Another engagement opportunity would be to host regular meetings that target specific communities by hosting them different days of the week and at various times so that people who have tight schedules can make it. If the program were to implement these changes, it could potentially maximize participation and reach a more diverse population, benefiting all community members.

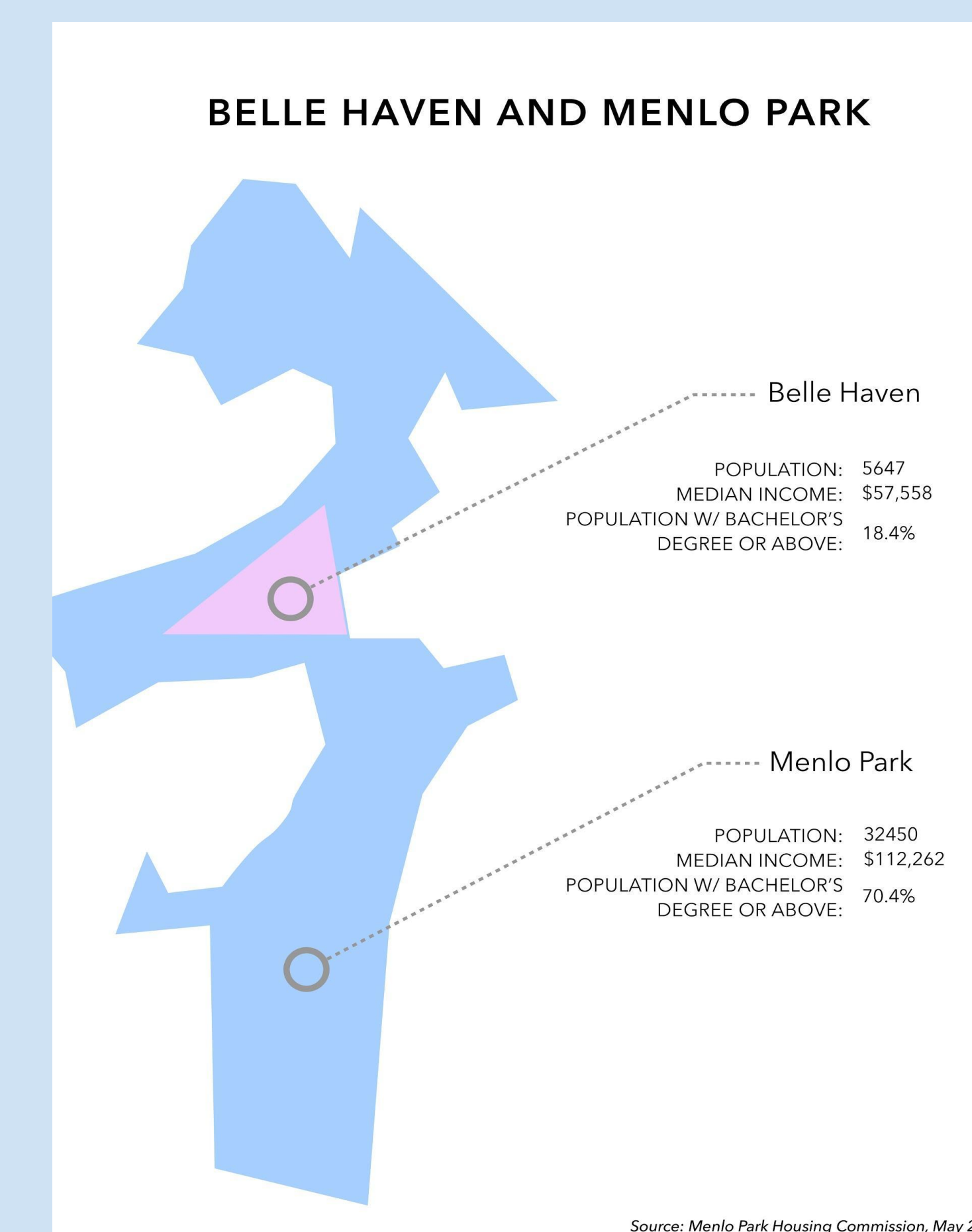
RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES

The case study, “*Belle Haven Community Snapshot*,” conducted by Stanford students Samantha Wong, Alex Lu, Nicholas Rodriguez, Samantha Hoffman, and Leah Chase, outlines the Belle Haven community; how it is significant due to the people who live there; and how it differs from the surrounding areas, such as Palo Alto and the west side of Menlo Park. Areas such as Belle Haven and East Palo Alto are rich in culture, diversity, and inspirational stories, which are often forgotten or unheard by people who appear not to understand the residents of Belle Haven. There is such a significant divide between the west side of Menlo Park and Belle Haven that community members of Belle Haven often use the term “the other side” while talking about Menlo Park. A respondent from the Belle Haven action plan explained how “there should be no ‘*Belle Haven*,’ there should just be Menlo Park. Treating Belle Haven as somehow different *makes* it different. It should make no difference which side of the 101 you live on. [...] Creating a ‘*Belle Haven*’ identity exaggerates those differences and makes it worse for everyone” (“*Belle Haven Action Plan*”). This is one of the forms gentrification. A second form was revealed through my experience of participating in the Belle Haven Mini Grant Program as a committee member. The intent of this program is to help people who cannot afford maintenance and upkeep, therefore improving equity in the community. By participating on the board, quantitative data was collected during the application review process for these grants. The execution of this research project began after people from the Belle Haven community applied to the Belle Haven Mini Grant Program, which had a deadline of February 21, 2018. I was able to be part of the committee that selected who would receive the grant and how much would be awarded to them. We met on Tuesday, March 6 to award \$38,000 to Belle Haven projects. This was enough to grant every applicant their requested amount. However, we did not give everyone the amount of money that they applied for, despite having the funds. Applicants applied for \$500, \$1000, and/or \$1500 grants. I was given ten home improvement applications and five community event applications to evaluate. One other person had the same applications, and we both decided how much each applicant should receive based on a rubric. (There was another group of two that evaluated the other ten home improvement applications, and we all decided award amounts for the community events.)

DISCUSSION, ANALYSIS, AND EVALUATION

I conducted a Chi Square Goodness of Fit Test, and I found that $p \approx 0$.

There is statistically significant evidence that different races are not applying for the Belle Haven Mini Grant proportionate to their population.



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