



THE CITY OF NEW YORK MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 3

59 East 4th Street - New York, NY 10003

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Paul Rangel, Board Chair

Susan Stetzer, District Manager

Street Co-Naming Request Application

Please complete the following application and bring the required materials to the Transportation Committee meeting.

1. Applicant's Name Amy Chin, Think!Chinatown
 2. Applicant's Telephone Number and e-mail 212-563-0392 amy@thinkchinatown.org
 3. Applicant's Address 1 Pike Street, 1st floor, New York, NY 10002
 4. Applicant's connection to proposed honoree Friend and colleague of over 40 years
-
5. Proposed Honoree's Name Corky Lee
 6. Is proposed honoree an Individual or Non-profit Organization (check one)
 7. Proposed street for Co-naming (between which cross streets) Mosco St. (between Mott St. and Mulberry St.)
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8. Does the proposed location already have a co-name? Yes No
 - a. If Yes indicate the current name _____
 9. Has any other public area been named after the proposed honoree? Yes No
 - a. If yes indicate the location _____

Attach any relevant documentation along with the required petition of support from the residents and businesses on the street proposed to be co-named.

DRAFT

TITLE: Support for street co-naming of Mosco Street Between Mott Street and Mulberry Street as "Corky Lee Way"

WHEREAS, Corky Lee was widely recognized and celebrated nationally and internationally as the "Undisputed, Unofficial Asian American Photographer Laureate"; and

WHEREAS, Corky Lee tirelessly served New York City Chinatown and other Asian-American communities throughout his prolific career as a photographer, journalist, activist, advocate and leader for over 50 years; and

WHEREAS, Corky Lee, a lifelong New Yorker and community organizer, has mentored and continues to inspire many generations of Asian American students and fellow activists; and

WHEREAS, Corky Lee's unparalleled body of work consisting of an estimated 100,000+ photo images chronicling over half a century of Asian-American history and life in New York City and beyond has filled in significant gaps and omissions in American history; and

WHEREAS, Corky Lee attended virtually every Asian American event in New York during his lifetime, camera in hand, and had a major impact as a photojournalist who relentlessly pushed for greater representation for and exposed injustices to Asian Americans across the United States; and

WHEREAS, Corky Lee was pivotal in the founding and/or establishment of several New York cultural and civic groups including the Basement Workshop, Asian American Arts Alliance, New York Chapter of the Asian American Journalists Association, the Sons of American Legion, 21 Pell Street, and many others; and

WHEREAS, in his self-proclaimed "Act of Photographic Justice", Corky Lee remade history at the 145th anniversary of the transcontinental railroad at Promontory Summit, Utah by gathering over 250 Chinese Americans to recreate the historic commemorative photo and correct the fact that 12,000 Chinese who completed the railroad in 1868 were literally left out of that picture; and

WHEREAS, Corky Lee advocated for and helped create a Chinese language voting ballot that increased Chinese American electoral participation in New York City; and

WHEREAS, Corky Lee lobbied with other AAPI activists for Congressional gold medals for the more than 25,000 Chinese American World War II military veterans and succeeded in getting S.1050 - Chinese-American World War II Veteran Congressional Gold Medal Act passed by the 115th Congress; and

WHEREAS, Corky Lee was a beloved, respected and leading presence in Manhattan's Chinatown, including serving as a Sons of American Legion Lt. B.R. Kimlau Squadron 1291 commander at The American Legion, Lt. B.R. Kimlau Chinese Memorial Post on Canal Street; and

WHEREAS, Corky Lee's contributions were recognized by Mayor David Dinkins in 1988 by proclaiming May 5th 1988 to be Corky Lee Day and Corky is well known throughout the United States and other countries; and

WHEREAS, the iconic newsstand on Mosco Street, at the intersection of Mott Street in the middle of Manhattan's Chinatown, is the site of Corky Lee's final photography exhibition where he pioneered a joyful place for community gathering, public celebration and healing that continues today for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the intersection of Mosco and Mott Streets is home to some of Corky Lee's favorite regular Chinatown 'haunts' where he would often hold court and chat with friends and strangers alike over coffee or a meal; and

WHEREAS, Mosco Street, is fittingly named in honor of Frank Mosco, a friend of Corky Lee's and also celebrated community activist comparable in stature to Corky Lee, and

WHEREAS, a petition for co-naming the one-block-long Mosco Street "Corky Lee Way" demonstrated substantial neighborhood awareness and support. The petition gathered **xx (xx%)** of the residents and 5 signatures (100%) of the merchants of Mosco Street, plus **xxx** signatures of residents of the Chinatown and nearby areas; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Community Board 3 supports a "Corky Lee Way" sign beneath the Mosco Street sign on the northwest corner of Mott and Mosco Streets commemorating the life of an outstanding New Yorker, Corky Lee, former Unofficial Asian American Photographer Laureate, Asian American historian, advocate and activist, who spent over 50 years tirelessly serving the Chinatown and broader Asian American communities thereby improving the lives of countless Asian American New Yorkers and other Asian Americans.