

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 3
59 East 4th Street - New York, NY 10003
Phone (212) 533-5300
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Andrea Gordillo, 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 Roy Schwartz
2. Applicant's Telephone Number and e-mail roy@royschwartz.com
3. Applicant's Address _____
4. Applicant's connection to proposed honoree Historian/biographer, friend of the family

5. Proposed Honoree's Name Jack Kirby
6. Is proposed honoree an ☒ Individual or ☐ Non-profit Organization (check one)
7. Proposed street for Co-naming (between which cross streets) Essex Street between Delancy and Rivington Streets

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.

**Please sign my petition to support the co-naming of
JACK KIRBY WAY**



We, the residents of Essex Street between Delancey and Rivington Streets, support a “Jack Kirby Way” sign at the corner of Delancey and Essex Streets, in honor of Jack Kirby, an outstanding New Yorker and a pioneering artist who co-created the Marvel Universe, helped inspire the pop art movement, and immortalized the Lower East Side in his work.

Accomplishments & Legacy

Jack Kirby (1917–1994) was a first-generation American and resident of the Lower East Side, born and raised on 147 Essex Street. Denied proper recognition during his lifetime—especially compared to creative partner Stan Lee—Kirby’s unbridled imagination, groundbreaking artistic innovation, and moralistic storytelling have inspired generations of New Yorkers, Americans, and people around the world.

Jack Kirby is the co-creator of Captain America, Fantastic Four, the Hulk, Thor, Ant-Man, Iron Man, Avengers, X-Men, Silver Surfer, Black Panther, New Gods, Eternals, and many other characters and concepts. He additionally played a role in the creation of Spider-Man and Daredevil. His creations continue to bring joy and inspire millions of people of all ages and across media as symbols of hope, courage, social justice, and brotherly love.

A real-life hero himself, Jack Kirby was a decorated World War II veteran, awarded the Bronze Star.

Throughout his seven-decade career, Jack Kirby invented countless visual tools and hallmarks of the comic book artform, which have since informed many other artforms as well. Among those who credit him as a direct influence are pop artists Roy Lichtenstein and Richard Hamilton, authors George R. R. Martin and Michael Chabon, and film directors George Lucas and Guillermo del Toro.

Lower East Side

Jack Kirby's connection to the Lower East Side is significant. Born Jacob Kurtzberg to Jewish immigrant-refugees from Austria, the Lower East Side of his childhood played a crucial role and was heavily featured in his work.

His characters' rooftop fights, a superhero staple today, were inspired by his own experience as a member of a youth gang during the Depression, fighting across the Lower East Side's huddled tenement rooftops.

Captain America's famous origin as a bullied, scrawny youth from the Lower East Side is also based on Kirby's own life.

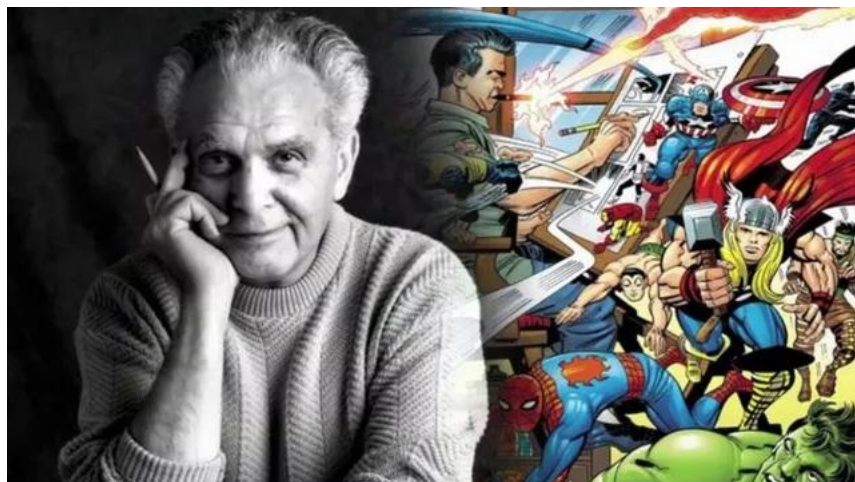
Most autobiographical in his fiction work, the Fantastic Four's Thing is prominently from the Lower East Side, a former resident of "Yancy Street"—a fictionalized Delancey Street—who visits his old neighborhood regularly in the comics, as well as in the recent movie.

Immigrant life in the Lower East Side was also the subject of Kirby's famous autobiographical comic, *Street Code*.

Thanks to Jack Kirby's stories in comic books, animation, films, videogames, and elsewhere, children and adults all over the world are familiar with New York's Lower East Side, its history and culture during the early-mid 20th century, and specific neighborhood locals like Delancey Street.

In summation

As an unsung founding father of modern popular culture and of a beloved American mythology, and as a proud representer of this neighborhood, we hereby support a "Jack Kirby Way" co-naming sign at the corner of Delancey and Essex Streets.



Who was Jack Kirby? Learn more:



Jack Kirby Museum & Research Center
(virtual)



Jack Kirby: Heroes and Humanity (exhibit at
the Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles)



The real Captain America (CNN article)



*What you should know about the man behind
'Eternals'* (CNN article)



*The Thing's Real Secret Identity? Marvel
Legend Jack Kirby* (IGN article)



Jack Kirby: Story Teller (2007 TV
documentary)

