



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4

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LESLIE BOGHOSIAN MURPHY
Chair

JESSE BODINE
District Manager

January 13, 2026

Hon. Erik Bottcher
NYC Council Member
224 W. 30th Street, Suite 1206
New York, NY 10001

Danielle Zuckerman
Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
59 Maiden Lane, 37th Fl.
New York, NY 10038

Re: Street Co-Naming – La Nacional / Little Spain at the N/E/C 14th Street & 8th Avenue

Dear Council Member Bottcher and Commissioner Zuckerman,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) at its January 7, 2026 Full Board meeting, by a vote of 44 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible, supports the co-naming of the northeast corner of 8th Avenue and West 14th Street in honor of Little Spain–La Nacional, a nonprofit organization that has served Hispanic immigrants for 157 years and continues to function as a vital cultural and community anchor. This designation would ensure that Spanish and Hispanic heritage remains visible, vibrant, and accessible in New York City.

It is important to note that our Community Board has a history of street co-naming in recognition of individuals rather than organizations, and we are mindful that this request deviates from our policy. La Nacional does have a building presence as an alternative to designate their request for street co-naming which is stated in the MCB4 guidelines. Exceptions can be made and the strong community benefit provided by La Nacional should be considered.

In addition to letters from the High Line, the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation, District Council 9 of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT), the King Juan Carlos I Center at NYU, the Queen Sophia Spanish Institute, the Abraham Lincoln Brigades Archive, and the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security, and

Migration of Spain through the Spanish Embassy in Washington, DC, La Nacional produced 329 signed letters of support.

With 22% of the MCB4 population, or 26,700, being Hispanic (Census 2020), La Nacional is an essential institution in the fabric of our community, and 157 years after its founding, it remains a beacon of generosity, community, and artistic spirit for Little Spain residents and many more. By supporting outside events for the Spanish and Hispanic communities, they offer emergency lodging and board, food, drinks, and venue donations. In addition to providing free or inexpensive cultural programs, networking events, and free rehearsal space, they also provide English classes. Every month, their services and activities help about 4,000 members of the community. They reach younger generations thanks to their 15,000 social media followers.

La Nacional was founded in 1868 by a small group of Spaniards. Situated between Seventh and Eighth Avenues at 239 W. 14th Street, it was the heart of "Little Spain," one of the biggest Spanish enclaves in New York. It is situated along the Hudson River from Christopher Street to 23rd Street and was home to about 30,000 Spaniards.

When La Nacional first started out, it offered a cradle-to-grave support system that gave many of the just-arrived residents and the long-established Spanish families in the neighborhood a safety net. Residents had access to social activities, familiar cuisine, jobs, medical treatment, and, in their last days, funeral and burial services. Residents were reassured by the close-knit social fabric of the town that nobody would be left behind or die alone. Even the citizens of "Little Spain" had their own section at St. Vincent's Hospital.

Initiatives for social justice reform were spearheaded by the citizens of "Little Spain." In 1951, a former president of La Nacional was elected to the New York State Supreme Court, becoming the state's first Hispanic judge. Additionally, the "Little Spain" group banded together to effectively advocate against the McCarran-Walter Act, often known as the restrictive Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952.

Later, La Nacional served as a gathering place for avant-garde poets and artists, including Federico García Lorca, who composed parts of his well-known anthology "Poet in New York" while there, and the pioneering director Luis Buñuel. When Paco de Lucía visited New York City, he would also arrange spontaneous jam sessions in La Nacional.

For these reasons, MCB4 strongly supports the application to co-name the northeast corner of 8th Avenue and West 14th Street as Little Spain–La Nacional. The organization's enduring contributions to arts, culture, social support, and immigrant life reflect the values of Manhattan Community Board 4 and the broader identity of New York City as a city of immigrants.

Sincerely,



Leslie Boghosian Murphy
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee



Jesse Greenwald
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee