

# TRACE MATERIAL

a podcast



## MEDIA RELEASE

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A Podcast from Parsons Healthy Materials Lab  
Parsons School of Design | The New School

NEW YORK CITY, NY - Parsons Healthy Materials Lab at The New School launches their podcast, [Trace Material](#), Wednesday, April 1st, 2020.

*Trace Material* explores the convergence of our lives and the lives of the materials that surround us. If you are what you eat, then you are where you live, work, and play. Each season we dig into a material you might find in your interior environment to discover what it can tell us about our history, our culture, and our bodies.

Season one focuses on hemp—one of the two main ingredients in the superstar healthy material often called Hempcrete or HempLime. Although it seems much of the US has gone hemp crazy, *Trace Material* thinks about hemp critically. It looks into the history of American agriculture, the 2018 Farm Bill, and hemp's potential to right some of the social and environmental wrongs of the country's past.

In Colonial America, you could pay your taxes with hemp. In 1941, Henry Ford introduced a car that was both built out of and could run on hemp. Today, you might be drinking a CBD latte, while wearing a hemp t-shirt, sitting in your HempLime house. Or, you may not be aware that any of this exists, because you could have sworn hemp is still illegal.

Over the course of six 20-minute episodes, the first season of *Trace Material* investigates hemp's storied past and contested future. In the first episode, which is available to download April 1, the show visits the fields of Farmington Historic Plantation in Louisville, Kentucky, where hemp was farmed by enslaved African Americans and features interviews with the Executive Director Kathy Nichols and docent Cassandra Sea, whose family are descendants of people who were enslaved at Farmington. In later episodes, *Trace Material* interviews noted cannabis historian Emily Dufton, New York State Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo, and environmental activist and two-time Vice Presidential nominee Winona LaDuke.

*Trace Material* is hosted by faculty, researchers and staff from Parsons Healthy Materials Lab—a design-led research lab at Parsons School of Design at The New School. HML is dedicated to placing people's health at the center of all design decisions and committed to raising awareness about toxics in building products and creating healthier places for all people to live.

The first episode of *Trace Material* is available on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), and [Stitcher](#). Visit [healthymaterialslab.org](https://healthymaterialslab.org) to find out more.

For more information about Healthy Materials Lab, please contact:  
[persauda@newschool.edu](mailto:persauda@newschool.edu) or 212.229.8970 x2385