

April 20, 2026



SiriusXM's "99% Invisible" and BBC Studios Announce Landmark New Series Exploring America Through 100 Objects

Hosted by Roman Mars, "A History of the United States in 100 Objects" reframes U.S. history through the everyday artifacts we've made – and often forgotten



NEW YORK – April 20, 2026– SiriusXM and BBC Studios today announced a major new original series, **"A History of the United States in 100 Objects,"** produced by BBC Studios Audio and the award-winning team behind SiriusXM's acclaimed podcast about the hidden design and architecture shaping everyday life, "99% Invisible."

Hosted by "99% Invisible" creator Roman Mars and **premiering on May 19**, "100 Objects" echoes the BBC's 2010 landmark series, "A History of the World in 100 Objects," by telling the story of America not through a single narrative, but through 100 distinct and surprising objects.

Each episode examines an ordinary object from America – sometimes overlooked, sometimes discarded – to uncover the human stories, contradictions, and cultural forces it reflects: a gold coin retrieved from a shipwreck in 1857 that triggered a financial panic; an

antebellum schoolbook that became an instrument of Black liberation; a tiny screw that shows how the US created a hidden industrial empire; and 97 more. Blending meticulous reporting with immersive storytelling, “100 Objects” poses a central question: what if the objects that rarely make the history books say more about our country than those that do?

Throughout the series, Mars will be joined by a wide-ranging group of celebrated contributors, including historians, journalists, and acclaimed podcasters, as well as individuals with personal connections to the stories being told.

The project brings together some of the most respected voices in narrative storytelling for a rare, large-scale collaboration, including: “Radiolab” founder **Jad Abumrad**; **Dan Taberski**, investigative journalist and host of “Hysterical,” “Missing Richard Simmons,” and “9/12”; Song Exploder creator **Hrishikesh Hirway**; former MythBuster **Adam Savage**; current “Radiolab” co-host **Latif Nasser**; historian and New Yorker writer **Jill Lepore**; National Book Award winner **Imani Perry**; and a whole host of Peabody Award-winning journalists and producers, including **Jack Hitt** and **The Kitchen Sisters**, with additional contributors to be announced.

“The history of America can’t be captured in a single story,” explains **Roman Mars**. “So instead, we’re telling one hundred. By looking closely at the things we’ve made – and the things we’ve thrown away – we’re hoping to reveal a richer, more complicated picture of who we are.”

Helen Pendlebury, BBC Studios Audio’s Commercial & Content Partnerships Director, says, “SiriusXM and the ‘99% Invisible’ team are the perfect partners for this ambitious project which will reflect the best of all of us”.

“Roman Mars and the team behind 99% Invisible have a rare ability to take the seemingly ordinary and reveal something profound,” said **Adam Sachs**, SiriusXM’s SVP of Podcast Content. “Partnering with BBC Studios on a project of this scale allows us to bring that storytelling to an even broader audience.”

Beginning May 19, new episodes of “A History of the United States in 100 Objects” will drop every Friday in the “99% Invisible” feed on the SiriusXM app and wherever podcasts are available. Episodes will additionally be available a week early for SiriusXM Podcasts+ subscribers. More information available at siriusxm.com/podcasts-plus-subscription.

“100 Objects” is produced for SiriusXM by BBC Studios Audio with Roman Mars and the “99% Invisible” team. The series is executive produced by BBC Studios Audio’s Annie Brown (producer of the groundbreaking “1619” history series for The New York Times) and Courtney Harrell (producer of Wondery’s award-winning “9/12” series). The EP for SiriusXM is Kathy Tu.

“99% Invisible” is distributed on the SiriusXM Podcast Network, and SiriusXM Media, the company’s advertising division, has exclusive ad sales rights to the podcast. The SiriusXM Podcast Network, the #1 podcast network by reach*, represents more of the top 20 podcasts than any other network* and reaches 1 in 2 U.S. podcast listeners each month.

###

About 99% Invisible

99% Invisible is a sound-rich, narrative podcast hosted by Roman Mars about all the thought that goes into the things we don't think about — the unnoticed architecture and design that shape our world. The show has created multiple spin-off series, including *Articles of Interest* and the popular *99% Invisible Breakdown of The Power Broker*. With over 750 million downloads, 99% Invisible is lauded as one of the best podcasts of all time by Time Magazine and Apple Podcasts.

About BBC Studios

BBC Studios, the BBC's main commercial arm, is the global content studio behind world-famous brands like Strictly Come Dancing/Dancing with the Stars, the Planet series, Bluey and Doctor Who. BBC Studios Audio produces and distributes an expansive portfolio including hit podcasts, vodcasts and iconic radio including Desert Island Discs, You're Dead to Me, The Global Story, The Interface, The History Bureau and In Our Time. With drama, factual and comedy and entertainment teams delivering world-class audio and digital content to audiences around the world, BBC Studios Audio produced over 600 hours of content in the last year, winning 33 awards internationally. Follow us @BBCStudios and @BBCPodcasts.

About Sirius XM Holdings Inc.

SiriusXM is the leading audio entertainment company in North America with a portfolio of audio businesses including its flagship subscription entertainment service SiriusXM; the ad-supported and premium music streaming services of Pandora; an expansive podcast network; and a suite of business and advertising solutions. Reaching a combined monthly audience of approximately 170 million listeners, SiriusXM offers a broad range of content for listeners everywhere they tune in with a diverse mix of live, on-demand, and curated programming across music, talk, news, and sports. For more about SiriusXM, please go to: www.siriusxm.com.

Media Contacts

Ailie Orzak, SiriusXM, ailie.orzak@siriusxm.com
Amy Dawson, BBC Studios, Amy.Dawson@bbc.com