

On Campus

# Columbia Leads New Materials Innovation Hub

Winter 2025-26



Designers inspect a fungi-based garment at the opening of Gotham Foundry. (Chris Taggart / Columbia Engineering)

**Columbia University** has launched a materials innovation hub, [Gotham Foundry](#), where students, faculty, and private partners can come together to develop new types of environmentally sustainable materials for use in the fashion, construction, and health-care industries.

Supported by \$45 million from the NYC Economic Development Corporation, Gotham Foundry will operate in partnership with CUNY's Advanced Science Research Center, SUNY's Fashion Institute of Technology, and the nonprofit biolab Genspace. For now, the facility is located at [Harlem Biospace](#), a technology incubator on West 127th

Street, but it will eventually be housed in a new Columbia Engineering building that is expected to break ground on the Manhattanville campus in 2027.

Gotham Foundry is directed by Helen Lu, a Columbia professor of biomedical engineering and dental and craniofacial engineering, along with codirectors Kate Ascher, a Columbia professor of urban development; Theanne Schiros, a Columbia researcher and FIT professor of materials science; Rein Ulijn, a CUNY chemistry professor; and Genspace executive director Casey Lardner.



[Guide to school abbreviations](#)


**TAKE THE  
COLUMBIA  
ALL-ALUMNI  
SURVEY**

Complete the survey  
by June 5.

50 randomly selected  
survey participants  
will receive a  
Columbia sweatshirt!

Shape the alumni  
experience.

[alumni.columbia.edu/survey2026](https://alumni.columbia.edu/survey2026)

 COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

The graphic is a promotional poster for the Columbia University All-Alumni Survey 2026. It features a dark blue background with white text. The main title is 'TAKE THE COLUMBIA ALL-ALUMNI SURVEY'. Below the title, there are three callout boxes: one on the right says 'Complete the survey by June 5.', one on the left says '50 randomly selected survey participants will receive a Columbia sweatshirt!', and one in the center says 'Shape the alumni experience.'. At the bottom, there is a dark blue bar with the URL 'alumni.columbia.edu/survey2026' in white. The Columbia University logo is at the bottom right.

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