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Elon Musk,  
'SNL' face heat  
over host gig. 3

## List

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copy into their glovebox" and reaching into it to "try something on a whim." For Mr. Long, the book is simply the latest entry in his ongoing efforts to shine an appreciative light on every corner of northwest Ohio.

"They kind of all complement each other, from the blogs to the books to the tours, they all work in conjunction," he said. Even now, he's working on a three-part walking tour of the Old West End in Toledo to be released in May. It comes on the heels of four self-guided tours that he published last year. He also has a new book in the works: *Remarkable Spaces*, planned for release in 2022, which will pair historical essays with pictures of local architecture shot by local photographer Matthew McNulty.

The best part of the experience is when people tell him, "I've lived here my whole life and I didn't know that was here."

The only frustration Mr. Long has experienced post-book release is the recurring realization that there's one place or another that he didn't include in the book. In truth, he's "absolutely certain" that he could have written an edition that included 200 or 500 items.

"Would some folks look at my list of 100 and say I left some things out?" Mr. Long asked. "I hope so. We all have our own interests and favorite places. I'm sharing my list to get people excited about exploring the Toledo region and hopefully discover new and different things to do."

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### LOCAL AUTHORS

# BUCKET LIST

## With '100 Things To Do in Toledo Before You Die,' Tedd Long shines appreciative light on northwest Ohio

By AHMED ELBENNI  
BLADE STAFF WRITER

Tedd Long doesn't consider himself a historian. He doesn't have any degrees in the field, and he works as the chief operation officer of a national consulting firm. But between curating [holytoledohistory.com](http://holytoledohistory.com) and giving local history tours, he's developed a reputation that precedes him.

When Reedy Press was looking for someone to author a book on Toledo as part of its national "100 Things to Do" series — the St. Louis-based publisher has already released 100 editions on cities such as Columbus, Cincinnati, and Ann Arbor — it naturally landed on Mr. Long. *100 Things To Do in Toledo Before You Die* was published earlier this month.

"I've always been a big cheerleader for Toledo," said Mr. Long, who last October published another book, *Forgotten Visitors: Northwest Ohio's Notable Guests*. "I hate to hear someone say there's nothing to do. I'm a big proponent of things to do here in Toledo, so it wasn't difficult for me to rattle off that list."

It was so easy, in fact, that Mr. Long put together the list in "maybe a day or two," drawing on the vast store of knowledge he's amassed "just from being around for 35 years." The challenge didn't lay in finding enough things to do, but in restricting them to just 100 items.

The book is divided into five sections: food and drink, from Tony Packo's to Rudy's Hot Dog; music and entertainment, from the Valentine Theatre to Griffin Hines Farm; sports and recreation, from the Glass Bowl to Savage Arena; culture and history, from Fort Meigs to Heritage Sylvania; and shopping and fashion, from La Casa De La Habana to Angelwood Gallery. The book also includes suggested itineraries and a breakdown of activities by season.

Some places Mr. Long knew, but didn't know the right person to contact for more information. For help on that front, he reached out to Lance Woodworth, president of the convention and visitors bureau Destination Toledo. Much of his time was spent on finding and verifying minute details — addresses, phone numbers, URLs, operation hours. The last was made especially difficult by the coronavirus crisis, and Mr. Long worried whether the orga-

nizations and establishments on his list would still be open post-pandemic.

In the course of writing the book, Mr. Long didn't uncover too much about his hometown that he hadn't already known — 35 years is a long time, especially for someone passionate about local history — but there was still the occasional surprise. For instance, he hadn't known about some of the "really cool" activities now offered at the Metroparks, including archery and tree-climbing.

Mr. Long said he'd gotten positive feedback on the book, with some people saying "they're looking forward to throwing a

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"I've always been a big cheerleader for Toledo."  
— Tedd Long

