

CITY WILL SEEK NEW USE FOR ANGEL MUSEUM

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Austin Montgomery/Beloit Daily News The Angel Museum on Pleasant Street will close at the end of September, during its 20th year in Beloit. The museum is home to over 14,000 angel figures and artifacts from over 60 countries.

BELOIT - Beloit's Angel Museum will close at the end of next month after 20 years in the community, and the city will be looking for new uses for the historic property.

The unique museum that displays more than 14,000 angel figurines and artifacts from over 60 countries will close its doors at the end of September, according to Visit Beloit. The property is owned by the City of Beloit. The figures in the collection have been listed for sale since February.

Joyce Berg and her husband, Lowell, started collecting angels in 1976. After their collection grew, they wanted to share it with the world. That's when the couple opened the Angel Museum in 1998, at 656 Pleasant St., a historic riverfront building that formerly served as a church.

In its final season, the museum has hosted various community events and welcomed tourists for guided showings of the collection.

On Aug. 6, the Beloit City Council approved extending an operating agreement between the museum's franchise St. Paul, Inc. and the city to expire at the end of the year while future uses of the space could be determined.

According to City Manager Lori Curtis Luther, the city will start a review process to determine the best uses for the building that was formerly a Catholic church built on the banks of the Rock River in 1914.

Luther stressed at a meeting earlier this month with city staff that there were "a number of interested parties" for the space that could include potential future public uses.

The city will take on costs of maintenance and utilities starting in 2019 until the property is sold or leased.