

# VISION BELOIT GROUP STILL LOOKING FOR NEW SPACE

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BELOIT - The Vision Beloit partners are still searching for a permanent home heading into the new year, with key decisions anticipated in 2019.

The partners - Visit Beloit, Greater Beloit Economic Development Corporation (GBEDC) and Downtown Beloit Association - were relocated to a temporary space in the Eclipse Center after updated Hotel Goodwin construction plans by Hendricks Commercial Properties forced the groups to move out of office space at 500 Public Ave.

The DBA relocated to the Strong building on Grand Avenue late in 2018, while Visit Beloit and GBEDC remain at the Eclipse Center.

The Greater Beloit Chamber of Commerce, also one of the partners, is currently housed in the Irontek portion of the Ironworks campus.

Visit Beloit Executive Director Celestino Ruffini said he expects decisions to be made on future locations in the first quarter of this year.

"I expect some decisions to be made, and we look forward to finding out what that home is going to be," Ruffini said. "We are exploring any and all opportunities."

Options currently on the table include potentially renovating and expanding the city-owned Angel Museum property along the riverfront; building a new structure at 200 West Grand Avenue, west of the Ironworks campus, or moving into another temporary space at the executive suites of the Ironworks campus. But officials have noted the Angel Museum property could be too small for the groups, with a priority on pursuing new construction over another short-term move.

In the temporary space, Ruffini said there hadn't been any logistical issues, but noted the space was not as convenient as the past downtown location.

"Ideally, it would be great to have something figured out at the end of the year," Ruffini said. "If we were to build new, I'm not sure what that timeline would be, but it would be great to be celebrating the 2019 holidays in a new, permanent home."



Ruffini

