

A Historic Location

The Applebee's location, which closed in 2020 during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, has remained empty ever since. As the sole Milwaukee outlet for the popular American chain, its closure left a noticeable gap in the local dining scene. According to **Urban Milwaukee**, the space has garnered interest from multiple restaurateurs since the American chain's exit, highlighting its high visibility and potential.

Growing Demand for Korean Cuisine

The move towards a Korean restaurant reflects a broader trend in Milwaukee's culinary scene, where the appetite for Korean and pan-Asian food has been on the rise. Recent openings, such as Soban Korean Eatery downtown, indicate a growing demand for authentic Korean flavors among locals. This new establishment could further foster this culinary interest and provide unique dining options to the Bay View neighborhood.

Details Still Under Wraps

While the prospective operators aim to occupy the former Applebee's building, specific details about the restaurant's menu, the identity of its operators, and an opening timeline remain undisclosed. **Urban Milwaukee** reported on May 21 that this initiative is part of a larger movement of restaurant openings and transitions occurring across the city.

Before any culinary creations can begin, the new restaurant must secure the necessary approvals from City Hall. This includes obtaining a food-dealer license and permits related to alcohol sales. These applications are publicly accessible under Milwaukee's city records, where they are reviewed by municipal licensing staff and the Common Council.

Looking Ahead

As the community awaits more information, the prospect of a new Korean restaurant taking over the recognizable Applebee's spot represents a significant opportunity to refresh and diversify the local dining experience. Once permits are filed or further announcements are made by the prospective operators or city officials, more clarity surrounding the new venture is expected.

In an evolving food landscape, this development stands as a testament to Milwaukee's culinary resilience and the potential for independent eateries to thrive in spaces previously occupied by national chains. The future of the Holt Avenue location could soon reflect a vibrant blend of tradition and innovation, resonating with the community's evolving tastes.