



## Congrats to O'Brien Metal, Inc. in the Elston Corridor PMD on Successfully Completing their SBIF Project!



### *About O'Brien Metal Inc.*

O'Brien Metal was founded in Chicago in 2007; they are metal fabrication and renovation experts who understand the relationship between design and function, shape and finish. Together with some of the country's most notable architects, designers, and landscape architects, they have been crafting beautiful interiors and striking exteriors throughout Chicago and New York. The company employs a diverse group of Architectural Detailers, Fabricators, Artists, Metal Technicians, Restorers, Finishing Experts, and Forging and Casting Professionals. They are experts at working with specialty metals such as bronze, brass, nickel, silver, gold leaf, copper, stainless steel, and aluminum. They have also been duly noted for being an example of "[Digital Manufacturing](#)".

"The company's fresh perspective originates from a new nexus of modern day technology and age-old artisanal metalworking, which they typically spend 70% and 30% of time realizing a project, respectively".

*To the right is an example of O'Brien Metal's work. "Casting: Exquisite detail was achieved with handcrafted molding and casting when creating these custom bronze frieze panels for a New York penthouse". See more at [www.obrienmetal.com/work](http://www.obrienmetal.com/work).*



In March 2015, O'Brien Metal was forced to move from their location on Southport Ave. due to the fact that they were a tenant of one of the recently demoed Finkl buildings. Now located at 1442 W. Willow St., O'Brien Metal is the latest addition to the Elston Industrial Lofts, a beautiful newly rehabbed multi-use property on Chicago's near north side that gives the company not only a bigger fabrication and finishing facility, but plenty of breathing room for the modern front office and architectural detailing space. Back in August of 2015, North Branch Works helped O'Brien Metals apply for the City of Chicago SBIF (Small Business Improvement Fund) Program, which they were drawn in a lottery to receive funds for their project. We are glad to announce their project competition; learn more about it below!

***O'Brien Metal's SBIF (Small Business Improvement Fund) Project:***



*Pictured above: O'Brien Metal's new system from inside and out!*

**Project Description:** O'Brien Metal installed an advanced ventilation system including an industrial exhaust fan that filters out smells and chemicals from the metal finishing process and other metal work projects. The system is built for flexibility because O'Brien Metals does tons of special projects. They do not always do the same type of finish over and over again.

**Approximate Cost:** \$75,000 total (SBIF covered 50 % - \$38,000)

**Impact:** This now allows O'Brien Metals to do all their finishing in house and further advance their technologies. It also improves the overall health and safety of workers and other tenants in the building. O'Brien Metal is now in a position to expand by buying more machines and hiring more workers. They currently have 12 employees, but are looking to hire as they expand their operations to the next level. Most recently, they have hired on a few of the employees laid off from New Metal Crafts on 1308 N. Elston Ave., who recently announced they are closing down. O'Brien Metal's is continuing to invest in line with digital manufacturing and will be purchasing new equipment including a 3D printer and CAD (computer-aided design) Machine.

**Congrats to O'Brien Metal on their success!**

We hope they also take advantage of the new [TIF 50/50 Training Program](#) offered in our area. Contact [Kari@northbranchworks.org](mailto:Kari@northbranchworks.org) for more info.

**Special Thanks to John O'Brien** at O'Brien Metals for providing us this info including the pictures! Find more about this company at [www.obrienmetal.com](http://www.obrienmetal.com)