

DL Off the Record with Sean Spellman

by Ryan Sikorski, Contributing Writer

On Tuesday, February 4, 2020, the NAIOP Chicago Developing Leaders gathered downtown at the office of CA Ventures for their “Off the Record” event with Sean Spellman, Chief Development Officer at CA Ventures. Before the program began, attendees had the opportunity to network with other young professionals across a wide range of disciplines within the industry.

Sean started the discussion by outlining his career path and expressed the impact a strong network has had in helping him progress through the industry. Sean specifically touched on his previous time at McShane Construction, Northern Builders, and Opus as opportunities to broaden his skillset and network. In fact, Sean was able to draw upon his prior experience and contacts in helping to form CA’s new industrial division, which launched in 2018.

During the Q&A portion of the event, Sean took a number of questions from the group, many focused around career growth and development. On the topic of work-life balance, Sean mentioned that it is impossible to balance each day individually, but looking for balance across a given week should be the focus and an achievable goal. Sean also advocated for professionals to dedicate 10% of the week to personal growth initiatives as a way to identify and build upon areas of weakness that are critical for future career success. Lastly, Sean advised the attendees to “be comfortable being uncomfortable.” He referenced his own recent experience with CA’s expansion into Europe as an opportunity to learn quickly through new experiences. The program concluded with further opportunity to network and chat informally with Sean after the Q&A session.