

Influential Women showcases Angeli K. Chin: Events, Marketing & Grants Manager for 'Ding' Darling Wildlife Society.

SANIBEL ISLAND, FL, UNITED STATES, June 12, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Award-Winning Marketing and Public Relations Leader Drives Record-Breaking Fundraising, Community Engagement, and Environmental Stewardship in Southwest Florida

Angeli K. Chin is an award-winning marketing, public relations, and nonprofit development leader with more than two decades of experience driving strategic communications, fundraising growth, and community engagement. As the Events, Marketing & Grants Manager for the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society–Friends of the Refuge in Southwest Florida (DDWS), Angeli plays a central role in shaping the organization’s visibility, donor relationships, and long-term

sustainability. She leads donor engagement efforts, oversees signature events, manages a diverse grant portfolio, and collaborates with regional partners to advance conservation education and environmental stewardship.



Renowned for her data-driven approach and powerful storytelling ability, Angeli consistently delivers measurable outcomes that strengthen brand presence and organizational impact. Her career includes a proven record of success across both nonprofit and corporate sectors, achieving significant increases in fundraising revenue, audience engagement, and marketing performance. Her accomplishments include expanding email databases by tens of thousands of contacts, boosting digital engagement metrics in short timeframes, and helping organizations exceed sponsorship and revenue goals. She has played a leadership role in planning and promoting high-profile community events, cultural celebrations, and charitable initiatives that have raised awareness and critical funding for social causes throughout Southwest Florida.

Angeli's professional journey began in the fashion industry in New York City, working in the penthouse of the Empire State Building. That experience gave her an early, front-row education in how industries operate at the highest level—how brands are built, how audiences respond, and how creativity and business strategy intersect. It was an environment that shaped her understanding of excellence, pace, and precision.

From there, she returned to school at New York University to complete a publishing program, where her passion for communications deepened. She fell in love with public relations and marketing, realizing that storytelling was not just creative expression but a powerful force capable of shaping perception, inspiring action, and driving meaningful change. That realization set the foundation for her entire career trajectory.

While she values her formal education—including two master's degrees—Angeli believes that lived experience ultimately shapes leadership. She often notes that while theory provides a framework, true understanding comes from immersion in real-world challenges, where adaptability, resilience, and problem-solving are tested daily. Her professional growth has been influenced by mentors who challenged her, colleagues who inspired her, and emerging talent whose fresh perspectives have continually sharpened her leadership approach.

When Angeli relocated from New York to Florida, she rebuilt her career from the ground up, beginning as an intern at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center. One of her earliest and most formative assignments was supporting the production of a \$250,000 wedding giveaway—an ambitious, city-wide initiative that required exceptional creativity, logistical precision, and strategic coordination. Working alongside accomplished artists, designers, and marketing professionals, she sharpened the collaborative, solutions-driven mindset that continues to define her leadership today. During this period, she also served on the core executive team behind Zombicon. This beloved annual downtown Fort Myers festival drew tens of thousands of attendees and raised critical funds for local arts and music education. Her work on Zombicon immersed her in large-scale event operations, community engagement, and cultural storytelling, further shaping the foundation of her career in creative nonprofit leadership.

Today, she brings that same drive, curiosity, and discipline to her role at the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society–Friends of the Refuge. Angeli works under the leadership of Ann-Marie Wildman, whom she describes as a mentor who leads with grace, integrity, and clarity. She credits this leadership environment as one of the most meaningful and impactful professional experiences of her career.

Since joining the organization, Angeli has broken fundraising records for four consecutive major events by elevating storytelling strategies, deepening donor engagement, and reimagining how campaigns and experiences are designed. She has fully embraced the organization's mission, advancing conservation efforts, strengthening community partnerships, and amplifying the work of the J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge.

Every stage of her journey—from New York fashion houses to Florida arts institutions to conservation leadership—has shaped her identity as a strategist, storyteller, and executive. Each chapter has reinforced her belief that purpose-driven work, when grounded in authenticity and community connection, creates lasting and meaningful change.

Angeli considers Ann-Marie Wildman, executive director of DDWS, to be one of the most influential women and mentors in her career. She describes her leadership style as grounded in integrity and unwavering clarity, with an emphasis on continuous growth. Under her guidance, Angeli has learned the importance of never becoming complacent—remaining open, curious, and willing to evolve as both a professional and a leader.

Angeli emphasizes that every day brings new challenges, successes, and learning opportunities. In her view, setbacks are not failures but essential parts of growth, offering insight and direction for improvement. This mindset has shaped her leadership philosophy: stay grounded, remain adaptable, and consistently seek ways to elevate both strategy and impact.

Angeli also shares guidance for young women entering the communications and nonprofit sectors. She encourages openness, resilience, and a willingness to rest when needed. She believes that success is not defined by avoiding mistakes but by learning from every experience and using those lessons to grow. Leadership, she emphasizes, requires flexibility, creativity, and the courage to think beyond traditional approaches to build meaningful connections and advance mission-driven work.

Angeli firmly believes that transformation does not occur through isolated grand gestures but through consistent, intentional actions taken over time. These small actions accumulate into meaningful outcomes, ultimately shaping legacy and long-term impact. This perspective continues to guide how she measures success in both her professional and personal life.

In her field, Angeli recognizes both challenges and opportunities in balancing nonprofit operations with federal partnerships. As the organization operates on federally managed land, strict guidelines require precision, diplomacy, and careful alignment between compliance and creative strategy. Additionally, the ongoing recovery from Hurricane Ian continues to shape community needs, infrastructure, and engagement strategies across Sanibel Island and surrounding areas.

Despite these complexities, Angeli views them as catalysts for innovation. She believes they encourage adaptability, creative problem-solving, and forward-thinking approaches to donor engagement and storytelling. Operating within constraints, she notes, often leads to the most meaningful innovation and impactful leadership decisions.

Angeli's executive philosophy is grounded in three principles: stay agile, stay curious, and remain committed to innovation. She believes that constraints often reveal hidden opportunities and

that true leadership emerges when individuals navigate complexity with clarity, vision, and purpose. Her core values—accountability, integrity, and transparency—shape every dimension of her leadership. She views honesty as the foundation of effective decision-making and sees openness and accountability as essential to meaningful personal and professional growth. Her faith reinforces her belief that joy, resilience, and purpose can be found even in the most challenging circumstances.

Beyond her professional commitments, Angeli remains deeply connected to her family and the passions that keep her grounded. She finds joy in singing and dancing with her children, painting, reading, and cooking—creative outlets that allow her to recharge and express herself. She also prioritizes time in nature and moments of intentional stillness, practices that help her maintain balance in a demanding, fast-paced field. Together, these values and rituals shape how she leads, how she serves, and how she shows up in every space she occupies. They form the foundation of the impact she strives to make and the legacy she is determined to leave.

A visionary communicator and strategic force, Angeli K. Chin continues to elevate the mission of the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society by uniting storytelling, innovation, and partnership-building to protect the natural world and empower the communities who cherish it.

Learn More about Angeli K. Chin:

Through her Influential Women profile: <https://influentialwomen.com/connect/angeli-chin>

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