



Dhana Kannan, Ph.D.

FRACTIONAL COO. SPEAKER. ADVISOR.

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Speaking *style*

I treat every talk and every podcast conversation as a performance, not a presentation. I open with scenes, not slides. I use storytelling, humor, and the occasional terrible dad joke to make complex business ideas memorable and easy to apply.

I like to say I have the brain of a nerd and the heart of an artist. I combine analytical thinking with creative storytelling to make operations, leadership, and AI surprisingly engaging.

Speaking reviews: www.withaurion.com/speaking.

Speaking videos: youtube.com/@dhana_kannan

Summary

You are a CEO juggling strategy, hiring, operations, and twelve Slack channels, quietly asking, "How did this become my life?"

I help founders escape the day-to-day operational trap and build businesses that don't depend on them.

My sweet spot is businesses that have outgrown "figuring it out as they go" but aren't yet ready for a full-time COO.

About *Me*

I'm Dhana, a Fractional COO who helps scaling businesses build operating systems that free CEOs to focus on strategy, growth, and leadership.

Before launching my Fractional COO practice, I built and scaled my own consumer product brand across the United States, Canada, and Taiwan. Today, I'm navigating the IP exit of that business. I understand manufacturing, logistics, inventory, cash flow, and scaling because I've lived it.

At the same time, I never stopped being a programmer. My PhD research was built on data and AI, and I bring that technical depth into every engagement. Every recommendation I make is grounded in evidence, not instinct.

I've always been drawn to solving messy problems. The domain has changed over the years, from software to physical products to AI, but the work has always been the same: bringing order to complexity.

Topics I Can *Discuss*

- Why every growth-stage CEO needs a trusted operational right hand
- How founders can protect their time and decision-making energy
- Scaling through hiring: how to build a team you can actually trust
- Scaling through systems: the operational engine that buys back your time
- The brain of a nerd and the heart of an artist: why creativity makes better leaders
- Why AI makes great leadership even more valuable
- Lessons from building and scaling a consumer product brand

Suggested Interview *Questions*

- 1.) You spent years in tech, then started a physical product brand. Why?
- 2.) How did running your own brand turn into a fractional COO practice?
- 3.) How does a CEO know when to delegate versus do it themselves?
- 4.) How do you find the right person to delegate to?
- 5.) Once you've built the right team, how do you build the systems that help them succeed?
- 6.) Operations can sound incredibly analytical, but you often talk about creativity being one of your biggest strengths. How does that influence your work?
- 7.) You clearly spend a lot of time thinking about leadership. Looking back over your entrepreneurial journey, what's been the hardest leadership lesson you've had to learn?
- 8.) You've talked a lot about leadership. At the same time, AI is changing how companies operate. How do you see AI changing the role of the CEO?
- 9.) If you could leave every founder with one lesson about scaling a business, what would it be?

Why Audiences Enjoy My *Talks*

- Practical frameworks founders can implement immediately.
- Behind-the-scenes stories from building and scaling a consumer product business.
- A blend of operations, AI, leadership, humor, and storytelling.
- Honest conversations about the mistakes, pivots, and lessons that rarely make it into business books.

How I'll Promote Your *Podcast*

Every podcast appearance is promoted on LinkedIn and permanently featured on my website alongside links to the episode. Since January 2026, my LinkedIn posts have generated more than **33,000 views**.

Quick *Facts*

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