

**Karthik Bala**  
**CEO, Velan Ventures, Inc.**  
**CEO, Velan Studios, Inc.**

Karthik Bala along with his brother Guha are founders of Velan Ventures, a game focused innovation investment company and Velan Studios, an award-winning indie studio focused on discovery of breakthrough new game experiences.



In 2020, Velan Studios debut title, *Mario Kart Live: Home Circuit* was a breakthrough in mixed reality gaming, which went onto garnering numerous awards including Racing Game of the Year at the DICE Awards. In 2021, Velan delivered *Knockout City*, an all-new online multiplayer “dodgebrawler”, which combined the fun of fighting games and shooters with dodgeball. In 2023, Velan Studios launched *Hot Wheels Rift Rally*, a next generation R/C car mixed reality experience for PlayStation and iOS in partnership with Mattel. For 2024, Velan Studios has announced *Midnight Murder Club*, an innovative party game of hide and seek and shoot...in the dark as well as *Bounce Arcade*, reinventing pinball in Virtual Reality where you play inside the machine!

Previously, Karthik and Guha co-founded Vicarious Visions in 1991 while both were in high school. Over their 25-year leadership of the studio, VV grew to become an industry-leading game developer, helping to shape popular culture around the world. The brothers have built and led teams in the development of multi-billion-dollar franchises such as *Skylanders*, *Guitar Hero* and more. In 2021, Vicarious Visions became part of Blizzard Entertainment.

Karthik enjoys mentoring entrepreneurs and start-up ventures and looking at how game technologies can transform the world. He holds Bachelors degrees in Computer Science and Psychology from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and an MBA from MIT Sloan.