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## **D.C. COMMISSION ON THE ARTS AWARDS GRANT TO DISSONANCE DANCE THEATRE**

Washington, D.C. – Shawn Short, founder and artistic director of Dissonance Dance Theatre (DDT), Washington, D.C.’s newest dance company specializing in developing audience’s ability to perceive and interpret the human experience through dance, has recently been awarded a grant from the D.C. Commission on the Arts’ Small Projects Program.

“I am honored that the local arts community has embraced the work that I’m doing with,” said Short. “Receiving a grant from the commission so that we can work in the D.C. community with dance is a real honor.”

DDT recently launched its first season of dance classes for adults in the Washington, D.C, area to increase the training and performance opportunities for dance artists in Washington, D.C., and is in the planning stages of a major work, entitled “What the Eye Sees”, which will partly be funded through the grant.

DDT was conceived as a project in 2005 after Short graduated from Howard University and started to work with the Washington Ballet. He felt there needed to be a performing ensemble that blended the modern styles of old with nuances of ballet, jazz and hip-hop to create a fresh take on contemporary movement. Shawn believed that this style could find a home in the Washington D.C., dance community, which has been a locale sensitive to the growing changes in dance that are shaping the 21st century.

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*Dissonance Dance Theatre (DDT), a dance series of programs that specialize on developing audience's ability to perceive and interpret the human experience through dance. For more information on DDTV, visit [www.ddtdc.com](http://www.ddtdc.com).*