



MITCHELL J. LANDRIEU  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**State of Louisiana**  
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM  
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT  
DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
September 14, 2007

ANGÈLE DAVIS  
SECRETARY

PAM BREUX  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Mr. Zeb Mayhew Jr.  
Oak Alley Plantation  
3645 Hwy 18  
Vacherie, LA 70090

Re: Oak Alley Plantation  
Replacement Gallery Flooring

Dear ~~Mr. Mayhew~~ *Zeb*

Thank you very much for inviting us to visit Oak Alley on September 12 to view such an innovative replacement product for the gallery.

As you know, Oak Alley is a National Historic Landmark and one of the most important architectural assets in our state. Changes to the historic material are not considered lightly. With that being said, we believe that the Aeratis Flooring Product that you showed to the staff would, *when painted*, be a suitable replacement material for the wood boards.

Standard 6 of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation states: *Deteriorated historic features shall be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature shall match the old in design, color, texture, and other visual qualities and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features shall be substantiated by documentary, physical, or pictorial evidence.* We believe that the product as proposed will meet this standard. Thankfully, tens of thousands of people visit Oak Alley every year, causing an extreme amount of wear and tear on traditional wood gallery floors. This plastic composite product will be able to withstand that amount of stress while maintaining a historically accurate appearance.

Thank you again for inviting us to such a lovely and important property, and know that we remain at your disposal. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (225) 342-8160 with any further questions.

Sincerely,

Alison F. Saunders  
Tax Credit Coordinator  
Division of Historic Preservation

Cc: Jessica Cleaver, Project Officer  
Historic Buildings Recovery Grant Program