April 21, 2015

Daniel Elliott, Rita Elliott and the Lamar Institute Team
The Lamar Institute, Inc.
P.O. Box 2992
Savannah, GA  31402

RE: Letter of Commendation

Dear Rita, Daniel and The Lamar Institute Team,

The Davenport House Archaeology Project that The Lamar Institute executed was a precious opportunity for the Museum to conduct primary research to more deeply (literally) understand the site. As you know, the DH is self-funded, primarily through ticket sales and rentals, so entering into an expensive research project was a leap of faith in hopes of discovering new and useful information to reinterpret the above ground basement and garden.

What you have produced exceeds our expectations. From the data gathering of ground penetrating radar to excavations through the public programs into the lab work and finally the report writing and interpretation, we are inspired by your professionalism and dedication to the project. Until we read your evaluation letter we were unaware of the extent of The Lamar Institute’s commitment to the DH/HSF project, which, along with volunteer hours, included funding to cover soil analyses and extra field and labor. While the meaning of what you have uncovered will be revealed through time, the report and data are a crucial step to more fully understand the site.

Please know that we are grateful for your conscientious stewardship of the property and your generosity of time as well as your vocational equity. You did not have to be so nice to get the work done. Your openness to share in the mist of your work showed the community in a very visible way that the DH cares about discovery and learning new things from our old place.

Thank you for your important work on the Davenport House Museum’s behalf. We look forward to using it to inform exhibits and expand the stories we tell about those who lived and worked at Lot 13 and Lot 14 on Columbia Square. We humbly hope that our project, which you have skillfully completed, will inspire other historic house sites to undertake similar work.

On behalf of the Davenport House community, please know our appreciation for the thorough and thoughtful execution of Deep, Dirty Secrets: 2014 Archaeological Excavations at the Davenport House Museum, Savannah, GA.

With the fondest regards,

Brooke Wilford
President
Davenport House Committee

Jamie Credle
Director
Davenport House Museum