Scott Stibich created Figure/Ground to explore how people engage with a space when nothing is changed except for the addition of a bold color. By drawing viewer’s into the project in a subtle but unavoidable way, a sense of both playfulness and awareness of the space is added to the everyday experience of this beloved public space.

The concept of figure-ground triggers the human brain to interpret its environment by creating contrasts. Figure-ground is based fully on the viewer perceptions and not on the objects themselves, reinforcing interactivity with one’s surroundings.

Using a mirror-like material to outline the edges of the garden, the movement of people is reflected back into the space, creating a brief moment of contact between the artwork and those who pass through the garden who are otherwise deep in their own thoughts.

Stibich further connects with garden’s users through the 100 movable chairs located within. Everyone who moves a chair to create the perfect spot for a lunch break or a quick outdoor meeting will be part of the project.

See Also is a partnership between the Cleveland Public Library and LAND studio. Figure/Ground is the third installment of this annual program, which is generously funded through the Lockwood Thompson Endowment Fund, a private trust established to support the arts at Cleveland Public Library.

See Also is in reference to a term used in library cataloging which essentially means “look here, but also look for these related terms which cover similar topics.” Learning how to look in relation to the visual arts makes one realize that we each see things differently. As libraries across the country strive to provide information, programs, and materials that are more engaging to the public, using the term “see also” as the name of this program is a way of connecting people to the past in a forward looking way.