Jesse is originally from Norfolk, VA, but has been a Vermonter since he began high school. There, he developed an interest in language, culture, and global politics. An exchange with a school in France included his first trip that was beyond a day's drive, which kicked off a lifelong love of travel. Jesse graduated from Syracuse University with a degree in Architecture, which included a year in Florence, Italy. His architectural career began in Washington, DC, and he has worked at the Burlington firm Freeman, French, Freeman, Inc. for the past 20 years. He was a founding board member of the Vermont Green Building Network and has focused his career on sustainable design. Jesse has traveled to over 40 countries, and, since 2006, has hosted many of VCWA's international visitors.