I am not in any pursuance of copyright infringement, but do have concerns over a design donated to an organization that did not reply to confirm entry and thought it may be something to think about for similar situations.

There was a statement on a facebook website noting all submissions became their property.

This was a contribution, but without a receipt of submission, there is little to go on in terms of using the design.

If I want to use the design, do I need to seek permission by them? If they do not reply, then is it OK to assume they do not hold rights to it?

This leaves a "gray area" in permissive use.

For claims small and large, it may be ideal to require receipt to secure transfer of property ownership.